



The Montana Department of Corrections Correctional Signpost

Winter 2009



Modest 4.4% increase

Budget reflects slower economy

By Bob Anez
Communications Director

The final Department of Corrections budget submitted to the 2009 Legislature requests an increase in spending that is nearly identical to the expected growth in the offender population during the next two years.

The spending plan contains a 4.4 percent increase of \$15.6 million more than the previous Legislature appropriated to the agency. The department forecasts an annual offender growth rate of about 4.6 percent.

"This budget reflects the difficult economic conditions that the state of Montana and the rest of the nation find themselves," says Corrections Director Mike Ferriter. "It is modest in its goals and reasonable in its effort to maintain the programs we have and cover the increase we anticipate in the overall number of offenders we must manage."

DOC Appropriations

2009 Biennium (millions)	\$355.222
2011 Biennium (millions)	\$370.851
Increase (millions)	\$15.63
Pct. Increase	4.4

The original two-year budget request was for \$382.3 million, or \$27.1 million more than provided by the last session. But declining economic conditions triggered plummeting revenue forecasts that forced reductions in all agency budget requests by mid-December.

Working with the governor's budget office, the department identified about \$11.6 million of the proposed increase to be removed, leaving a biennial budget request of \$370.8 million.

"This has been a difficult process," Ferriter said. "From the start, we developed a responsible budget that would make the best possible use of available revenue and allow us to continue major programs authorized by the Legislature and needed to properly manage offenders."

"The lower budget will mean we cannot do all we wanted and make it difficult to provide the additional beds we may need, but we still will be able to continue existing programs and services, and that is critical," he said.

The budget was based on projections that the corrections

system will see an increase of 1,276 offenders between mid-2009 and

mid-2011. The original request would have provided for 37 additional prison beds, 183 beds in alternative and treatment programs, and capacity for another 1,128 parolees and probationers.

A major component of the budget was funding to launch a 116-bed sex offender treatment program outside of Montana State Prison, a project authorized by the 2007 Legislature.

However, the need to trim the size of the budget request changed that.

The sex offender program was reduced by 49 beds, with the 67 remaining beds allowing for treatment of 35 offenders and aftercare for another 32. In addition, almost all new proposals were dropped, except for \$1.6 million in

'We still will be able to continue existing programs and services, and that is critical.'

-Director Mike Ferriter

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Budget

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funding for the juvenile re-entry program. That money was mistakenly provided as only one-time funding two years ago.

Among the other items removed from the budget was funding for rate increases to prerelease centers, treatment programs and regional prisons and a staff transportation program at Montana State Prison.

Part of the reduction came through an increase in what lawmakers call "vacancy savings." This refers to the practice of requiring state agencies to leave a certain proportion of their jobs vacant in order to save money. The department's budget is based on keeping 7 percent of its positions vacant, except for correctional officer jobs where a 4 percent vacancy rate is applied.

The final budget contains funding to cover the ongoing cost of a new prerelease center in the Kalispell area – another project approved by the 2007 session – and expansion of the revocation and sanction program known as START from 88 to 118 beds. It also includes money for hiring 15 probation and parole officers to accommodate growth in that part of community corrections.

"While these budget adjustments were challenging, the budget given the Legislature still allows use to maintain our core programs within the department," says Rhonda Schaffer, head of the Administrative and Financial Services Division.

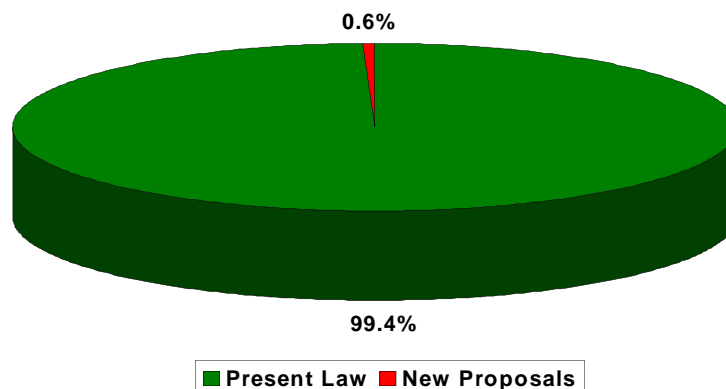
The joint subcommittee responsible for reviewing the corrections budget began that process Jan. 13 with presentations by Ferriter and Schaffer. The following day, the national consultants who developed the long-term master plan for the department discussed their work with the seven-member subcommittee and the Long-range Planning Subcommittee.

The panel planned to look at community corrections, secure-care, Montana Correctional Enterprises and the youth services programs through Jan. 19.

Members of the House Appropriations Committee, the Senate Finance and Claims Committee, and the House and Senate Judiciary committees had opportunities to tour correctional facilities in Great Falls and the Deer Lodge Valley in early January.

The corrections subcommittee includes four veteran members and three newcomers. The returnees are Sens. Keith Bales, R-Otter, and Steve Gallus, D-Butte; and Reps. Ray Hawk, R-Florence, and Cindy Hiner, D-Anaconda. New members are Sen. John Brueggeman, R-Polson, and Reps. Bill Nooney, R-Missoula, and Dennis Getz, D-Glen-dive.

DOC Budget Allocation
2011 Biennium



More than 99 percent of the DOC's budget request is for "present law" adjustments needed to maintain existing programs and services. Barely half of 1 percent is for new proposals.



Montana Department of Corrections Mission

The Montana Department of Corrections enhances public safety, promotes positive change in offender behavior, reintegrates offenders into the community and supports victims of crime.

DOC submits four measures

The Department of Corrections has requested four bills in the 2009 Legislature.

HB 149

This bill strengthens the law dealing with offender payment of court-ordered restitution to victims. It strengthens the language that requires offenders to pay restitution regardless of whether they are under state supervision and eliminates a judge's ability to waive the administrative fee that funds the Department of Corrections restitution collection unit. It also clarifies that all offenders under supervision must pay a monthly supervisory fee.

HB95

This measure revises a law in the wake of a recent federal audit that prohibits the state Child Support Enforcement Division from using

Regional P&P administrator**Cancer claims DOC's McCarthy**

David D. McCarthy, who was regional administrator for probation and parole in Missoula, passed peacefully Monday, Nov. 3, 2008, at his home surrounded by his wife and daughters. He was 51.

McCarthy was born Sept. 9, 1957, in Bridgeport, Conn. His enviable "back east" childhood was full of great memories. He was surrounded by a close-knit community with lifelong friends. He often spoke of Yankees games with his uncles, cousins and brother.

After graduating from Notre Dame Parochial High School in 1978, he enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps. He was stationed in the South Pacific where he met his first wife, Lourdes. Following his discharge from the corps, he relocated to Anaconda, where his two beautiful daughters were born. Like any exceptional father, his children, Victoria and Raquel, were his pride and joy.

Dave's life centered around three passions: family, corrections and power lifting. He enjoyed pushing his physical abilities to the limit. He took up hockey at 40 and maintained avid weightlifting for 37 years. Dave competed in many regional meets, and held records in both the dead lift and the squat in the master's division. Six months prior to his death, he was still able to bench 290 pounds while receiving immunotherapy twice a week.

He spent 30 years working for the state of Montana Department of Corrections. In August 1978, he was hired as a correctional officer at Montana State Prison. He moved up the ranks and resigned in 1991 as a shift lieutenant. He enrolled in college, and completed a four-year degree with a double major in political science and sociology in less than three years. After graduation, he was employed as a drill instructor at the Swan River Correctional Training Center. Shortly thereafter, Dave was hired as a parole officer in Kalispell. In 1999, he transferred to the Missoula office and retired as the Region I administrator for probation and parole.

Those who knew him can attest to his tenacity in his fight against "The Big C." It began with the removal of his right kidney in 2002. The next six years were filled with extensive treatments, risky therapies and dangerous surgeries. The combination of being physically fit and having a stubborn 100 percent Irish soul, provided him with 15 months of remission. He was a true inspiration for anyone battling cancer.



Dave McCarthy

Dave was preceded in death by his father, Daniel; his uncle, John McCarthy; and Steve and Dorothy Csizmar; and his nephew, Keith McCarthy.

Many of his surviving family remain in Connecticut including his mother, Mildred; his aunt, Rose (McCarthy); his brother, Tim; sister-in-law, Lisa; niece, Randi; and cousins, Jimmy, Marilyn, Kevin, Arlene, Linda and Nancy. He is also survived by his loving wife and best friend, Mary Helen Kassel. The couple met "in prison" in 1988, and complimented one another for more than 20 years. Together they shared three grown children, daughters, Victoria and Raquel; son, Lance and daughter-in-law, Carmen; four grandchildren, Taylor, Ryan, Nicole, and the latest addition, 6-month-old Daphne Maria. Dave also leaves behind two well-trained and obedient beagles, Barnaby and McKenzie.

The memorial service was held Nov. 13, at Missoula Missionary Alliance Church with Chaplain Bill Wohlers officiating. Family and friends were asked to bring their best "Mac" story to share and reminisce and celebrate his life. His wit and sense of humor were next to none.

Because Dave came to appreciate the importance of higher education, a college fund has been established at Wells-Fargo Bank of Montana for his granddaughter, Daphne Maria Padron-McCarthy.

Long-range corrections plan to 2025

Consultants envision growth

The Montana corrections system is pressing the limits of its capacity and the state should consider development of a corrections complex in eastern Montana in order to meet its needs through 2025, a consulting firm has concluded in a long-term master plan for corrections.

The report, developed by the firm of Carter Goble Lee and presented to the Department of Corrections Advisory Council in December, predicts Montana can expect about a 4 percent annual growth in the total number of offenders over the next 16 years.

The department has needs for additional prison, prerelease, treatment and medical-mental health care beds, as well as more capacity in probation and parole, the document said.

"The MDOC (Montana Department of Corrections) system is currently experiencing the early effects of overcrowding," the plan said, adding that no corrections system should exceed 90 percent of capacity in order to allow for proper separation of inmates by classification.

"Montana is committed to community-based corrections and has made progress beyond what is common in most states," the report said. "As the MDOC system grows to meet the immediate and long-term needs, the use of community corrections will be vital to success."

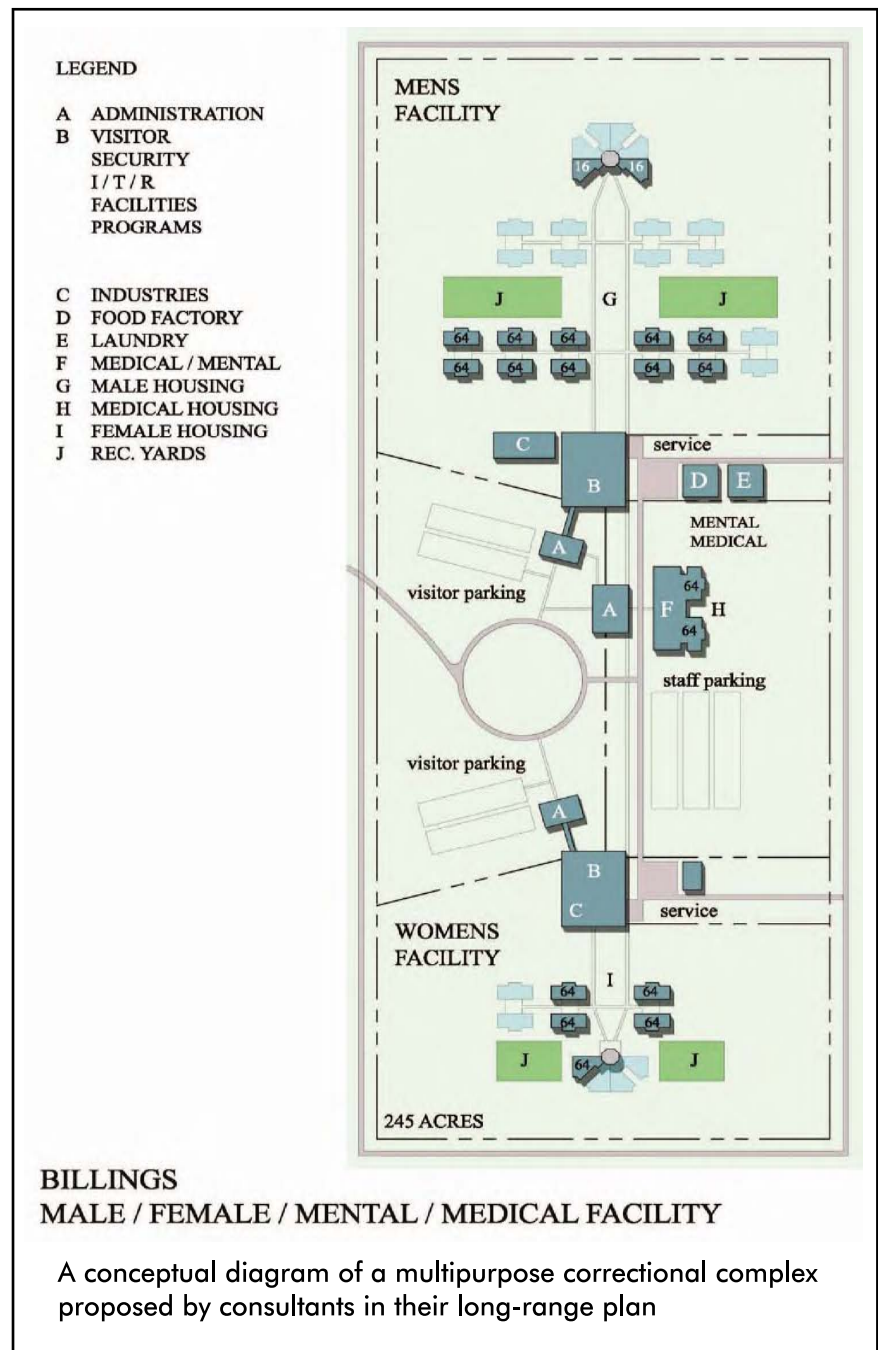
The Carter Goble Lee team spent many days in Montana last year visiting correctional facilities and talking with department officials about programs, services, practices and policies. They reviewed historic offender population trends and the makeup of the offender population in Montana.

On two occasions, they met with the DOC Advisory Council, which has been charged by Gov. Brian Schweitzer with reviewing the master plan to determine which, if any, of the recommendations to submit to the governor for his consideration.

Because the plan is focused on the long-term needs of the department, none of the findings or recommendations are reflected in the budget presented to the 2009 Legislature. However, the 2011 Legislature could face some decisions regarding implementation of the plan.

The consultants based their offender population forecast on maintaining the department's policy of managing 80 percent of offenders in community corrections-based programs. The department currently supervises a total of about 13,000 offenders.

The plan predicts the state will need to increase capacity in correctional facilities by



Wood ... lots and lots of wood



Trainees at Treasure State Correctional Training Center show off their work. (Photos by Karen Vaughn and Harlan Sipe)

**By Pat Hansen
Montana Standard**

A cold and blustery afternoon didn't deter seniors and the less fortunate from lining up Friday for free firewood at the fairgrounds in Deer Lodge.

Trainees from the Treasure State Correctional Training Center "boot camp" worked quickly to fill each pickup truck box or small trailer with the wood they had cut and split throughout the year.

This is the third year of the free firewood pro-

gram. Each year Sun Mountain Lumber, owned and operated by Sherm Anderson, donates more than 200 cords of log stubs – enough wood to fill approximately 250 pickup trucks. Throughout the year city workers pick up the wood and deliver it to the boot camp outside of Deer Lodge near Montana State Prison where it's cut and split by boot camp trainees.

Drill Sgt. Wayne Cameron has been a firewood program coordinator since its inception and called the community service "the highlight of the year." The military-style correctional program serves up to 60 male offenders who undergo both physical and mental rehabilitation in a strict, but positive atmosphere for change, a spokesman said. The firewood program fulfills the department's policy of restorative justice and gives trainees the opportunity to give back to society by helping needy community members.

Trainees worked in double-time speed Friday at the boot camp to load wood into dump trucks provided by the city, county and prison. It was then hauled to the fairgrounds. Before the 1 p.m. start, pickups were lined up for more than half a mile waiting to be directed to the woodpile.

"This is a lifesaver for me," said Sam Babich. "I can't do the hard labor of getting wood any more. We burn about five cords a winter and every bit helps." John Best agrees: "When you get older you just can't do all the work of going to the hills to get firewood." As trainees filled Donna Brown's pickup she said, "This is like money in the bank. Heating costs are so expensive and this will be a great help." This is the first time Gary Harris came to the firewood give-away.

"A friend told me about it," he said. "This will help me out a lot because I'm on Social Security." Several folks came to get wood for friends or family members. Larry Freiburg and Corky Davis filled a pickup to take to a friend "who needs it pretty bad."

EDITOR'S NOTE: This story appeared in the Oct. 13 edition of the Montana Standard. Reprinted with permission.



Trainees load cut and split wood into a dump truck for delivery.

Emergency drill tests Shelby prison

**By Christine Timmerman, PIO
Crossroads Correctional Center**

Members and volunteers from Toole County Sheriff's Department, Toole County Fire Department, Toole County ambulance service, U.S. Border Patrol and the Shelby Promoter newspaper participated in a full-scale emergency incident management team drill at the Crossroads Correctional Center in Shelby in October.

Assistant Warden Chris Ivins, who acted as incident commander, says these annual drills are necessary for the prison to get a feel for a real-time emergency and to determine how the Corrections Corporation of America prison reacts.

"It also gives us a good indication of what the response would be like from the outside agencies," he said.

"We set up a basic scenario where we had a fire in the industries building," Ivins explained. "We went through all the steps of getting inmates out of the area. Then we had to account for all inmates and staff in the building. We simulated making all the notifications to the Montana Department of Corrections, U.S. Marshals Service and CCA, as well as calling in for help from the local agencies."

The incident command team was assembled and several staff members took on unfamiliar roles. Planning was in full force because prison officials did not know how long the drill could last.

"We look at every aspect during these drills, such as if we have enough food to feed everyone for as long as it could be needed to keep the facility on lockdown. It really is quite involved," Ivins said.

During the inmate count process, the script called for prison staff to report that the whereabouts of one inmate were unknown. The drill also included a report that some-

one was seen moving south in one of the fields surrounding the facility. Ivins said the two events were considered a possible escape so more notifications had to be made and a mock press release was drafted by the prison's public information officer.

A staff volunteer played the role of the "escaped inmate"



Crossroads Correctional Center near Shelby

and even Ivins was unaware of the location of the individual during the drill. Border Patrol dogs searched for the "escapee." The individual eventually was apprehended and brought back to the prison safely, and the "fire" was extinguished by the fire department.

"The design of the drill was to be as realistic as possible so everyone and every agency learned something," Ivins said. The drill lasted just under one hour and went smoothly.

"The drill was very successful and I was very proud of the staff response and the response from the outside agencies," Ivins said. "Everyone did a tremendous job, and I thank everyone involved."

Two DOC staffers attend national meth summit

**By Deb Matteucci
Behavioral Health Facilitator**

In November 2008, the Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) gathered state teams from throughout the United States, Guam and American Samoa to

participate in a summit to address methamphetamine.

Gov. Brian Schweitzer and Anna Whiting-Sorrell, then his public health and human services adviser, led the effort to bring this valuable information to Montana by appointing a team to represent the state at the Washing-

ton, D.C., meeting in November. The team included two Department of Corrections representatives.

The goals of the summit were to:

- Synthesize local successes, move states to action and promote the

Summit

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development of national strategies

- Identify culturally appropriate and relevant evidence based practices in prevention, intervention, treatment and recovery management
- Forge collaborations across local, state, federal and tribal agencies and with community partners

Participants were asked to develop a state action plan to address three critical populations: offenders, women, and lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender. Daily work sessions included discussions of data collection, use of evidence-based practices, cultural competency and access to treatment services. After 3½ days of training, small group work and team



meetings, the Montana team had developed a draft plan for moving our state forward in

the fight against methamphetamine.

As the team returned from the summit, members are asked to review the plan, add action steps, work to build collaborative relationships within their respective agencies, identify data sources and partners, and expand the plan to include other key partners not in attendance.

As members of the state team, members are expected to participate in quarterly reporting with SAMHSA, conduct monthly conference calls with other state team members, and report the outcomes of our annual plan to the federal agency in the fall 2009.

Team members attending from Montana were Joan Cassidy, chief of the Chemical Dependency Bureau in the Department of Public Health and Human Services; Vicki Turner, director, Prevention Resource Center, Helena; Gary Hamel, administrator of the Health, Planning and Information Services Division at the Department of Corrections; Bob Runkel, assistant state superintendent of public instruction; Jeff Kushner, statewide drug court coordinator; Mona Sumner, chief executive officer, Rimrock Foundation; Josh Hemsath, president of the Queer-Straight Alliance at Montana State University; Kristin Juliar, director, Montana Office of Rural Health; Lenore Myers, director, White Sky Hope Center, Rocky Boy; Peg Shea, Montana Meth Project; and Deb Matteucci, behavioral health facilitator, Corrections and Public Health and Human Services.



From the Director

Mike Ferriter

Two years ago, state government found itself in an unprecedented situation when forecasts predicted a \$1 billion budget surplus.

Today, government and the 2009 Legislature are in another unprecedented situation with an unpredictable economy that has left everyone scratching their heads about what the future may hold. No one is sure what will happen with the economy and state revenues over few months, let alone the next two years.

Today, lawmakers barely will have enough money to sustain existing government programs and still save some money in a rainy-day fund.

That has made our efforts to develop a budget much more difficult than in 2007.

Then, we had the ability to request funding for new programs like the methamphetamine treatment centers and a sex offender treatment program. The Legislature understood our needs and responded generously.

Prior to the start of the 2009 session, we had to cut more than \$11 million from the initial budget request. While that still leaves us with about a \$15 million increase in our budget, there's no guarantee that will be where our budget ends up when the Legislature adjourns in April.

So what does this mean for us in corrections?

We will be challenged to make do with less funding than we felt was necessary. We will face adversity over the next two years, but we have the opportunity to test ourselves in how we respond.

Department staff will be affected by pay limitations. We will do our best to use the fiscal resources appropriated to us to minimize the impacts. Please be patient with us and recognize these limitations as we work with union representatives on contract agreements.

We will all have to work harder as a team to achieve our goals and fulfill our mission. In the next two years, it will be more important than ever to stay focused on what we *can* do and not on what we *cannot* do, to avoid those distractions that affect our work and to be innovative in our thinking and problem solving.

The budget will be tight and we all will face challenges as a result. But we're all in this together, pulling for the same purpose, aiming for the same goals. If we embrace teamwork and rely on one another for support, advice and solutions, the Department of Corrections, the state of Montana, its citizens and the offenders for which we are responsible will be better served.

In a nutshell, we must – more than ever – avoid distractions from our professional standards and concentrate on our two main objectives: public safety and public trust.



The Department of Corrections was among state agencies displaying posters about themselves for new and returning legislators in November. On display for three days in the Capitol, the DOC poster featured information on the incarceration rate, offender population, spending, statistical data, facilities and key contacts within the department. The poster also highlighted the department's mission statement.

DOC radio system entering digital age

The age of lightening fast digital radio communications is a reality and brings unprecedented capability within the Department of Corrections.

With a \$2.6 million one-time appropriation from the 2007 Legislature for replacement of existing radio and communications infrastructure, the Department of Corrections has begun the full deployment of a new Motorola digital radio system throughout the agency.

The department's system is not a stand-alone one, but is an integrated part of the entire Interoperable Montana (IM) project. The State of Montana's Homeland Strategic Plan requires the establishment of a Montana-wide, interoperable communications public safety system. The IM project, when completed, will provide the state with a public safety communications system connected through a high-capacity protected digital microwave network.

The deployment of the DOC system did not occur overnight. It has been a year-long process involving not only department staff and organizations, but numerous external agencies including the Lewis and Clark County sheriff's office, Montana Highway Patrol, the IM project team, the Tri-County IM Consortium, Motorola Inc., Northrop Grumman and numerous Motorola certified communication companies throughout the state.

Recognizing the expansive scale and scope of this project, the DOC director and senior management staff determined the need to establish a project manager. Due to his



A representative of Motorola, far right, instructs staff from Montana's secure correctional facilities and the Corrections Department's Information Technology Bureau on the use of new radios.

project management experience, Garrett Fawaz, the department's emergency planning and preparedness manager, was selected to lead this effort.

The decision was made to implement this project in two phases.

Phase I (October 2008 to January 2009) involves distributing radio equipment to only six programs: Montana State Prison, Montana Correctional Enterprises, Montana Women's Prison, Treasure State Correctional Training Center, Pine Hills Youth Correctional Facility and Riverside

Four DOC employees honored for work

Four Montana Department of Corrections employees were among 187 state workers honored with Governor's Awards for Excellence.

The honorees were Cynthia Davenport, Deer Lodge, human resources manager at Montana State Prison; Bernie Driscoll, Bozeman, regional probation and parole administrator; Shawn Niedge, Miles City, work restitution supervisor and native American activities coordinator at Pine Hills Youth Correctional Facility; and Jodi Stone, Miles City, an accountant in the Administrative and Financial Services Division.

More than 500 people attended a ceremony in Helena where Gov. Brian Schweitzer and Lt. Gov. John Bohlinger presented awards to the employees from 26 agencies across the state.

"Being able to recognize these employees is one of my finest moments as Governor," said Schweitzer. "These employees are examples of the dedicated and innovative public servants that work for Montana taxpayers. It is with great pride that the Lieutenant Governor, (Department of Administration) Director (Janet) Kelly and I showcase these employees today for all Montanans to recognize."

The DOC employees were chosen by department administrators based on nominations from other employees. The reasons for the selections were outlined in nomination forms.

Davenport was cited for her work with difficult personnel issues and her willingness to go "the extra mile to treat those involved with respect, compassion and understanding. She provides seasoned, professional leadership, expertise and guidance on complicated, confrontational human resource issues."

The nomination also noted: "Cynthia is humble, has a great sense of humor, cares about people and manages the delicate balance of responsibility between the person and department's mission."

Driscoll, retired from the department at the end of December after 34 years, was honored as someone "epitomized by creativity, innovation and improved outcomes."



Corrections Director Mike Ferriter, center, joins recipients of the Governor's Award for Excellence in Performance. Left to right: Bernie Driscoll, Cynthia Davenport, Jodi Stone and Shawn Niedge. (Photo by Ross Swanson)

His nomination said: "Bernie developed and implemented a treatment court approach with intensive supervision programs in Butte, Bozeman and Helena. The team rewards and holds offenders accountable by officer monitoring and individualized case management by a counselor. This approach is a strong effort in supporting the department's efforts to utilize incarceration alternatives."

Niedge was selected for dual roles at Pine Hills.

"Shawn's work supervising the work restitution program at Pine Hills enables youth to develop positive work ethics, habits and paying restitution," his nomination read. "Community work has resulted in positive public feedback including a thank-you letter in the local newspaper. Shawn's coordination of native American activities contributed significantly to the Youth Services Division's recognition by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention as one of the best practice programs for minority services in the United States."

Stone was honored for her fiscal work with the regional prisons to produce a formula for determining state payments for housing inmates.

"Jodi successfully developed the MDOC per-diem calculation worksheet and implemented rate negotiations with regional prisons," the nomination form said. "Jodi's professionalism, positive attitude and comprehension of the process allowed her to diffuse a previously contentious procedure and develop a strong working relationship with county peers based on honesty and integrity. Jodi's enthusiasm and ethical approach has earned her the respect and trust of regional prison personnel and will allow MDOC continued success negotiating per-diem rates."



The senior member of the booter alumni leads his peers in reciting the serenity prayer and affirming the Band of Brothers. (Photos by Harvey Niemi, Mike Scott and Alan Scanlon)

Booter reunion



Michael Buckley, aftercare counselor at Great Falls Prerelease Center, welcomes staff, booters and guests to the 13th Booter Reunion in Great Falls. In preparing for the event, staff had booters submit their personal definition of a booter. Staff selected the three best submissions to share with guests.



Michael Buckley, Great Falls Prerelease Center aftercare counselor (right), presents former counselor Mike Scott with a plaque recognizing his 13 years of managing the aftercare program.

Every year for the past 13 years, graduates of the Treasure State Correctional Training Center have gathered for a reunion hosted by the Great Falls Prerelease Center, which offers aftercare programs for those completing the boot camp program. The reunion is meant to show booters still in the aftercare program that they have a life to look forward to when they finish and that others who have gone before them have found success as productive, law-abiding citizens. The event also allows booters to stay in contact with boot camp officials and to provide one another with mutual support based on their shared experiences of completing the boot camp program.



Drill instructors from the boot camp and staff from the Great Falls Prerelease Center lead alumni on a formation run while they recite a special cadence written by booters in aftercare.

Conference: Restorative justice programs aid offenders in re-entry

By Sally Hilander
Victim Information Specialist

Offenders who participate in programs that give them an up-close-and-personal view of how they harmed their victims, families and communities are more motivated to change their criminal behavior and attempt to make amends.

This is not just a hunch. Correctional agencies around the country are subscribing in larger numbers to the notion that successful offender re-entry strategies must include victim impact programs.

"I've been in prison for 25 years and this is the first time I have ever thought of my victim," said an inmate who attended a victim-impact panel in Louisiana.

The importance of inviting victims to the corrections discussion table was the theme of two October conferences in Nashville, Tenn., attended by 70 victim services staff including Linda Moodry, public/victim information officer at Montana State Prison, and myself. The third annual Victim-Offender Dialogue Summit set the stage for the National Association of Victim Service Professionals in Corrections convention a few days later.

Victim participation in offender programming is part of "restorative justice," which recognizes that everyone affected by crime needs healing – the victims and offenders, their families and friends, and the communities in which the crime occurred, be it a small neighborhood or an entire city. Life is never the same for many victims, but restorative justice programs provide tools to help them move forward.

Mary Roche with the Iowa Department of Corrections noted that restorative justice is effective with most criminals, who she described as "morally disengaged" – impulsive and reckless but capable of change with appropriate treatment and programming. Offenders with certain psychiatric conditions that render them incapable of experiencing

empathy or compassion may not respond as well to restorative justice efforts.

Five days of training, networking, and discussion produced an overwhelming amount of information that Linda and I will share with DOC in coming months. Here are a few highlights from the Tennessee conferences.

Iowa realized early on the importance of tracking the behavior of offenders who (1) participate in victim impact classes, (2) listen to crime victims speak about their experiences, and (3) meet with their victims in victim-initiated dialogues with trained facilitators. Such tracking is important because it leads to "evidence-based best practices" that benefit the whole country. The effectiveness is evident in an Iowa recidivism rate that is 14-17 percent lower among offenders who participate in restorative justice programs.

The most provocative speaker in Nashville might have been Warden Burl Cain, an outspoken Southern Baptist who for 13 years has run Angola Penitentiary in Louisiana (also known as Louisiana State Prison or LSP). It is the country's largest prison with 5,100 offenders, most of whom are ineligible for parole. Angola, a work farm surrounded on three sides by the Mississippi River, has morphed from the brutal hoosegow of the 1920s that inspired the film, *The Green Mile*, to a largely peaceful penal institution that focuses on restorative justice and encourages visits from the media, victims and the public.

Cain described his prison as gang-free, focused on rehabilitation, and centered on morality.

"You find morality wherever you can. I find it in religion," he said.

Cain dismisses any notion that he forces his Baptist beliefs on offenders, but ACLU has

sued him for denying religious texts to Mormon inmates and he makes no apologies for his contention that religious accommodation deemed to pose a possible security risk, such as an American Indian sweat lodge, is not allowed at Angola.

Cain said more than half the offenders are born-again



Restorative justice recognizes that everyone affected by crime needs healing – the victims and offenders, their families and friends, and the communities in which the crime occurred.

Volunteers honored at Crossroads

By Christine Timmerman
PIO, Crossroads Correctional Center

Volunteers providing services to Crossroads Correctional Center in Shelby were honored for their work in October.

Chaplain John Meckling held a Volunteer Appreciation Banquet at the Shelby prison. Forty-two volunteers, their spouses and CCC staff members enjoyed a dinner of beef, cheese or vegetable lasagna, salad, garlic bread and rolls. Dessert of cherry and apple pie with ice cream was also served.

Russell Barrows, from the Church of the Rock in Canada, was named volunteer of the year. According to Meckling, Barrows was chosen for his long-time dedication to volunteering at the prison where he has been active since CCC opened nine years ago. Barrows also was cited for his devotion to recruiting other volunteers.

"Mr. Barrow's commitment to helping the inmates here at CCC is clearly evident; he has been known to make the trip down from Canada in all kinds of inclement weather," Meckling said.

Barrows provides Bible study to both state and federal inmates housed at the facility. For his extraordinary voluntary service to CCC, he was presented with a wooden, gold-plated plaque.

During the evening event, Assistant Warden Chris Ivins introduced himself to the group, providing a brief personal background and a summary of what volunteers should be aware of while in the prison. Rocky Hart, Security Threat Group expert at CCC, addressed the volunteers about gangs within prison walls. Meckling showed four videos that provided volunteers with insights into inmate behavior.

Meckling also conducted two days of annual, mandatory volunteer orientation training. Meckling said he was pleased that those attending the training sessions included 39 new volunteers.



From left: Ron Sturchio, chief of unit management for Crossroads Correctional Center; Russell Barrows, volunteer of the year; and Chaplain John Meckling

Inmates receive education recognition

BY: Christine Timmerman
PIO, Crossroads

More than 100 inmates at Crossroads Correctional Center (CCC) in Shelby received recognition in December for their achievements during the previous six months in various educational programs.

The inmates received 126 certificates in more than a dozen areas, including pre-algebra, algebra, algebra II, anger management, perfect attendance, carpentry, various arts, parenting, computer literacy, transition assistance, art history, environmental

science and world history. Ten inmates received GED certificates.

Principal Gerald Kulpas said 25 inmates received their GED certificates during 2008.

Curt Campbell, youth and family development director for Opportunities Inc. in Great Falls, was commencement speaker and talked to inmates about his own life experiences. He said he was born in Virginia in 1937 and needed about 42 years to "get his head on straight." He said his behavior during that time cost him his family and he had trouble with the law.

Campbell, who teaches a re-entry preparation course to inmates, said he knows what it's like to finally get one's life together in later years. He attended college in his 40s and emphasized that if he could turn his life around, anyone can.

"Mr. Campbell has been a welcome addition to the Transition Assistance Program at CCC," Svalstad said.

CCC programming, which includes education, provides activities that benefits inmates and keeps them busy so are less prone to misconduct. The prison has a 10-member education staff.

To promote energy efficiency

DOC forms green committee

In a time of steeply rising energy prices, the Montana Department of Corrections is doing its part to find more energy-efficient ways of doing business.

As part of Gov. Brian Schweitzer's 20x10 Initiative – intended to reduce executive branch agencies' energy consumption 20 percent by 2010 – the department has created a Green Team Committee to spearhead the corrections effort.

The six-member committee had its first quarterly meeting Dec. 8 to begin the process of developing energy-saving ideas, discuss recycling events, promote savings and encourage DOC employees to follow its lead.

The committee will have one representative attend quarterly meetings of the statewide Green Team. The representative will bring back to the department's committee ideas being used elsewhere in state government.

In thanking the committee members for agreeing to serve, Chairman Cory Purves said, "Your dedication, determination and enthusiasm will not go unnoticed as we, as a team, will strive together to make our department a more green and more energy-efficient department."

Other committee members are Stephanie Boudreau, restitution unit, Helena; John Daugherty, chief information officer, Helena; Cynthia Davenport, human resources, Montana State Prison; Cindy McKenzie, superintendent, Riverside Youth Correctional Facility, Boulder; Donna Stone, human resources, Helena; and Colleen White, staff attorney, Helena.



Purves, who also is DOC's compliance monitoring supervisor, urged any employees with energy-saving ideas to contact members of the committee.

In connection with establishment of the committee, Purves conducted a survey of DOC em-

ployees about their habits regarding energy use. Eighty-one employees responded, although some did not answer all the questions.

The survey found that 11 percent of those taking the survey rarely or never shut off their workstation computers when they leave at the end of the day. Seventy-nine percent believe that leaving a computer on allows automatic installation of updates after hours, and about 18 percent think that shutting down a computer takes too long or that the machine goes into hibernation mode if left running. However, state computers are not configured to go into such a power-saving mode.

About 44 percent mistakenly believe that shutting down computers is a requirement in department policy, and 28 percent said they do not shut down – or don't know how to turn off – peripheral equipment such as speakers and monitors.

Almost 96 percent of employees responding shut off their personal radios when leaving. Also, about 53 percent said they sometimes or never consider alternatives to printing e-mails or other documents.

Purves noted that the failure to turn off computers at day's end can be expensive. Based on the survey findings that about 11 percent of computers are left on, the additional electrical cost per year is \$3,720. That expense could be reduced by 93 percent (\$3,465) a year if all computers were programmed to enter hibernation mode after a few hours of inactivity.

"By implementing hibernation on the computers, it will be a huge cost savings to the department over time, as well as making the department one step closer to complying with the 20x10 Initiative," Purves said.



MT incarceration rate declines

Montana's incarceration rate continues to decline while the national rate at which offenders are locked up continues to climb, according to a new report by the U.S. Bureau of Justice Statistics.

The federal agency said Montana had 356 offenders incarcerated for every 100,000 state residents as of the end of 2007.

That compared with a U.S. average of 506.

The Montana rate has steadily declined in the past three years, from 416 in 2004. At the same time, the nation's rate has risen from 486. Montana's rate is the lowest for the state since 2000. The Montana rate has climbed just eight points since 2000, while the U.S. average jumped 28 points.

In the past eight years, 37 states have seen an increase in their incarceration rates and Montana experienced



the smallest of those increases – from 348 to 356, the BJS report said.

Nationally, prisoners under federal and state jurisdiction nearly reached 1.6 million in 2007. That was a 1.8 percent growth from the year before, slower than the 2.8 percent increase that occurred during 2006.

The report noted that Montana had the country's second largest decline in

the number of federal and state prisoners in 2007. Vermont recorded a 3.2 percent drop, while Montana's prison population fell 2.8 percent.

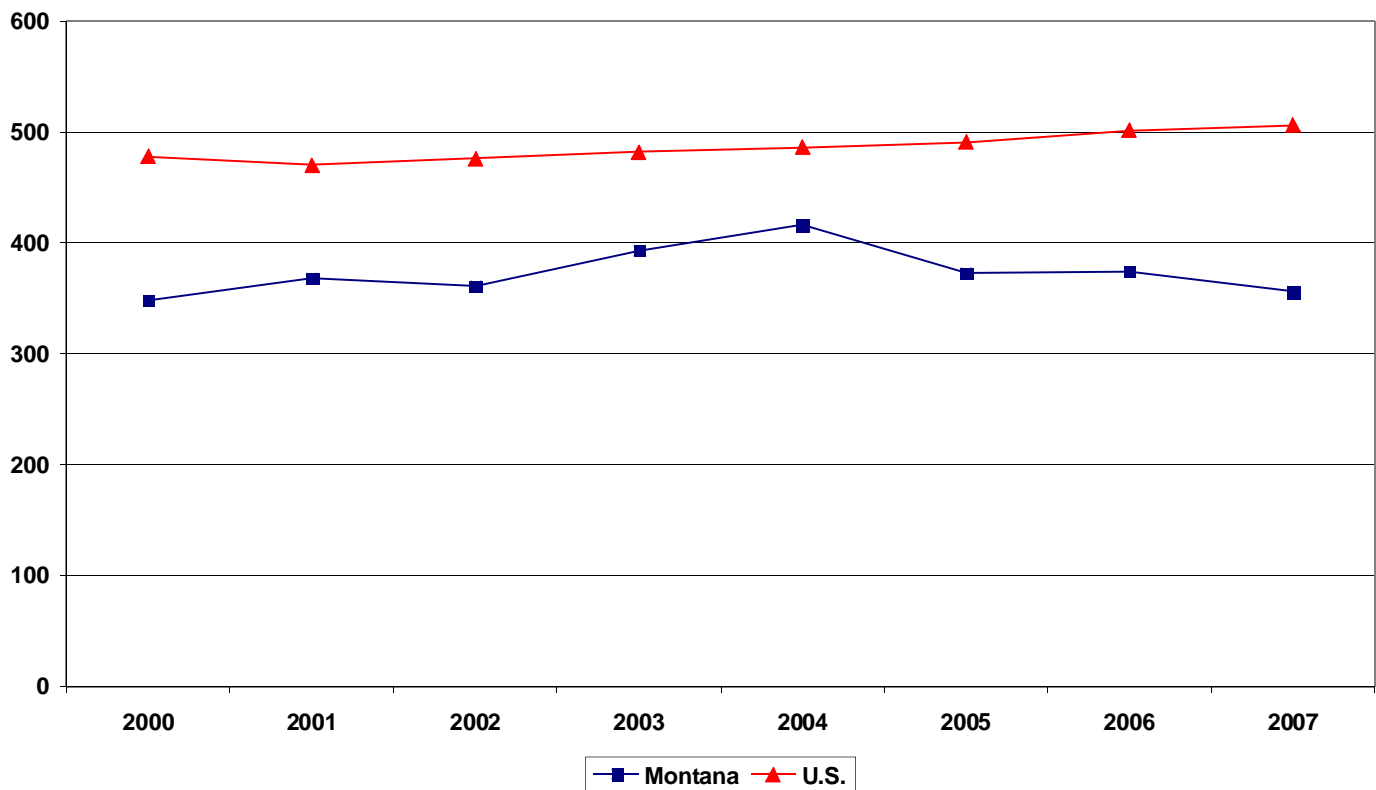
Montana correctional officials have said that the opening of two methamphetamine treatment centers was a big reason for the decline.

Between 2000 and 2006, Montana saw an average increase of 2.3 percent annually in federal and state prisoners; 27 states had larger increases.

Montana's incarceration rate in 2007 was lower than all but one of its neighbors; North Dakota had a rate of 221 per 100,000 residents. South Dakota's rate was 413, Idaho's rate was 483 and Wyoming's rate was 394.

U.S. and Montana Incarceration Rates

2000-2007



Conference

FROM Page 13

Christians. "Some of them are counterfeit but even if they're *acting* like Christians, they are better inmates and it (their sincerity or lack of sincerity) is between them and God," he said.

Cain believes that the criminal justice system owes it to victims to rehabilitate offenders and he promises: "No one is coming out of Angola prison until their victims no longer need to live in fear. If I don't change the offenders, the victims' blood is on my hands." The changes Cain has facilitated at Angola are the subject of a book, *Cain's Redemption*, written in 2005 by Dennis Shere.

Tennessee DOC Commissioner George Little notes that 97

percent of inmates will eventually return to the community, so they must be rehabilitated and instilled with hope if they are to remain crime-free.

"A phenomenal number of female offenders were victims, and so were many of the guys," he said.

He made it clear that being a victim does not *excuse* criminal behavior. Restorative justice is all about accountability. But past victimization does *explain* how offenders end up where they are, and they need programs and treatment that provide healing.

'A phenomenal number of female offenders were victims, and so were many of the guys.'

**--DOC Commissioner George Little
Tennessee**

"We (prisons) are part of the fabric of the community," Little said. "The community does not end at the fence." Like Arizona, Tennessee has tracked recidivism rates among offenders who participate in restorative justice programs, and reports a decline in the number of repeat offenders.

When Howard Levey was murdered in 1996 at the age of 40, his brother Dan became an outspoken advocate for victim rights within the **Arizona** criminal justice system. As a result of Dan's persistence, the governor of Arizona hired him to head a victim advocacy office for the state's Department of Corrections, and gave him free rein to develop victim programs focused on restoration and rehabilitation.

Under Levey's direction, Arizona inmates contributed more than \$500,000 in FY 2008 to DOC-approved victim groups such as Mothers Against Drunk Driving, who use the

money to reimburse travel expenses for victims who speak on victim impact panels or attend parole hearings. Fund-raisers include pizza sales and poster contests for inmates. Female offenders make blankets and infant wear for low-income parents. Inmates refurbish bicycles for distribution to domestic violence crisis center and schools.

For more information or to share ideas about restorative justice programs within the Montana DOC, contact Sally Hilander, victim information specialist at (406) 444-7461 or shilander@mt.gov.

Radios

FROM Page 8

Youth Correctional Facility.

Phase II (January-April 2009) will involve distributing equipment to the six probation and parole regions and the Youth Services Division. The funding does not include equipment for the DOC's contracted facilities.

A fielding plan and training plan was developed for each phase. The fielding plan included the inventory, distribution and computer programming of all equipment. The training plan is divided into two sections – one for establishing a train-the-trainer group within the department for user-level training and one for training se-

lected information technology personnel on the programming aspects of the radios.

Unlike the current outdated analog radio equipment used by the department, which consists of multiple types of radios, repeaters and no consoles, the new digital system will include the following major components:

1. Dispatch console, which provides exceptional command and control and efficient system monitoring
2. Digital, trunking handheld portable radios with over-the-air (OTA) programming
3. Digital, trunking mobile vehicle radios with GPS tracking displayable on mapping software for exact, pinpoint location of the vehicle

4. Encrypted handheld portable radios for the department's tactical team and selected senior department leadership
5. Best in kind repeaters with point-to-point wireless technology.

This system will provide the department, for the first time, with a real-time, push-to-talk, secure, communication capability, said Fawaz.

"The director, sitting in his office in Helena, will now be able to communicate, simultaneously or individually, with the wardens at Montana State Prison in Deer Lodge, Women's Prison in Billings, a probation and parole officer in Great Falls driving in the city, and the superintendent of Pine Hills in Miles City, with the simple push of a button on his handheld radio on an extremely secure and state-of-the-art system," he said.



Attack never clouded her dedication, smile

**By Sally Hilander
Victim Information Specialist**

Football fans might remember Jan. 29, 1995, as the day the San Francisco 49ers defeated the San Diego Chargers 49-26 in a game that broke a few Super Bowl records.

Donna Weeks, whose correctional career has spanned 22 years, remembers that Super Bowl Sunday 1995 as the day a boot camp trusty named Rodney Sattler blindsided her, dragged her into a bathroom, broke her neck, and left her for dead.

Almost 14 years later, people who knew the soft-spoken administrative assistant at the former Swan River Correctional Training Center before the attack would immediately notice that her deep faith, love of family and friends, and easy smile are unchanged. She still has kind words for everyone and an enduring commitment to helping criminals change their lives.

She sums up her philosophy about the vicious attack simply: "I'm very blessed to be here."

Donna has a word of caution for fellow corrections staff: "I think you have blinders on if you work in corrections and aren't aware something like this could happen. But I don't think you live your life in fear either."

One year to the day after the attack, Donna returned to the place where her life nearly ended.

"I believe it's important to face your demons," she said in a recent interview at the regional probation and parole office in Kalispell during a break from her administrative support work there. "I don't see how you can heal unless you confront what happened."

Donna acknowledges that for many crime victims, facing their demons may not include returning to the crime scene.

"Going back to the camp was important to me because that's where my support network was. I loved my job. I loved the boot camp and what we accomplished there," she explained. "We all need to deal with our issues in whatever way works for us. Keep a positive attitude and have a good support network."

The horror of Jan. 29, 1995, began when Donna was unloading supplies into the administration building as Sattler watched from the yard. The door apparently did not click closed behind her, and Sattler seized the opportunity. He slipped in behind Donna, grabbed her, and choked her into unconsciousness. When Sattler failed to return from the building, another trusty became suspicious and decided to check on Donna.

"He (the trusty) went to the lodge and reported that I was dead," she said.

Donna was transported to Kalispell Regional Hospital and later to Marin County, Calif., to be near her daughter. A seven-pound "halo" with titanium screws held her neck in traction.



Donna Weeks

E-mail audits find few problems

By Ken McElroy
HR Bureau Chief

A Department of Corrections initiative to monitor employee e-mail accounts to ensure compliance with related state laws and policies has found that the overwhelming majority of mailboxes contained only appropriate work-related items or minimal personal correspondence.

The project, which began in July, came in response to misuse of state e-mail system discovered in the fall of 2007 at Montana State Prison. Seventy-four employees were disciplined as a result of the investigation.

The department decided to launch a program of routinely monitoring the e-mail accounts of those workers involved in the misuse as well as those of randomly selected employees.

The audit effort was not intended to “catch” employees failing to use the e-mail system properly, but to discourage workers from making inappropriate or excessive personal use of e-mails in the first place. Director Mike Ferriter and other department managers concluded that the best solution was a preventive step to prevent the kind of distraction created when staff is disciplined.

The program selects 10 employee names at random each month to audit

for appropriate use of e-mail. The Human Resources Bureau chief notifies a designated contact in each division when they have staff selected for audit and that designee is given access to a copy of the employee’s email, including inbox, trash, sent messages, etc.

The designee reviews all e-mail files and notifies a person’s immediate supervisor if inappropriate items are found. The results are provided to the Human Resources Division and the supervisor must report on the actions taken to correct the problem.

In the initial four cycles of the audit process, 40 employee e-mail accounts were checked and 85 percent of them contained nothing inappropriate or very little personal items. Just six of those audited had various prohibited types of correspondence and/or excessive items unrelated to work. Thirteen other staff not part of the audits were counseled due to the discovery of inappropriate materials they had sent to audited individuals.

The kinds of inappropriate items included chain emails, which refers to items suggesting the recipient mail to a number of other people to realize

fame and fortune or to avoid dire consequences. Jokes were the most common materials found and some were large files (with photos, videos or animation) that clog the e-mail system.

Department employees receiving inappropriate e-mails should report or delete it, and tell the senders to stop mailing such items to the workplace.

The audits will continue, with the goal that they eventually result in discovery of no inappropriate materials in e-mail accounts. Although the department has attempted to make all employees aware of the program, the hope is that word of mouth among DOC staff will be the greatest deterrent.

While this program focuses on e-mail files, employees should remember to avoid excessive or inappropriate Internet surfing and viewing streaming audio or video content that is not job-related. Information technology tools are capable of tracking such activities.

Hopefully, all employees will recognize the need to adhere to state and department policies by limiting their non-work activity to “essential personal communications.”



Management endorses wellness project

Wellness: An interactive process of becoming aware of and practicing healthy choices to create a more successful and balanced lifestyle.

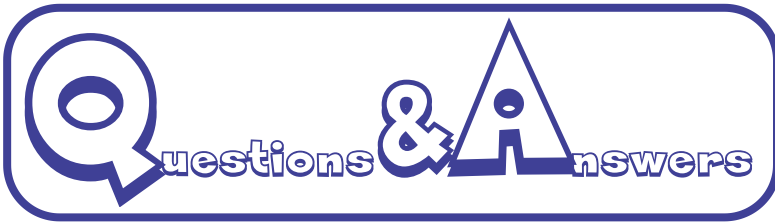
The Department of Corrections management team decided at its December meeting to endorse an agency-wide wellness initiative for all employees.

The project arose from the June Leadership Training Conference in Helena, where Dr. Lenny Mees discussed the need for lifestyles of wellness and how to deal effectively with stress in the correctional field. Following the two days of training, Mees conducted individual phone interviews with supervisors in an effort to measure and better under-

stand department issues, needs and interests. He submitted a report to Director Mike Ferriter that summarized his findings and recommendations.

During its meeting, the management team discussed members’ views of the health of the department’s employees and what they wanted it to be. The issue has been elevated because of several untimely deaths of employees in recent months.

Ferriter and the management team recognize the importance of a healthy workplace and workforce, both to the department and to individual employees. The director and



MASC

What does the acronym MASC stand for?

The Missoula Assessment and Sanction Center, a community corrections program in the Department of Corrections

Where is MASC located?

MASC is located within the Missoula County Detention Center in a building originally constructed as the Missoula County Regional Prison.

When did the program start?

MASC accepted its first offender in February 2003.

What is the capacity and typical population at MASC?

The facility has a capacity of 144 male offenders and an average daily population of 137.

What does MASC do?

MASC diverts male offenders from higher-cost prison facilities to more appropriate and less-expensive community corrections programs and expedites placement of offenders in those programs.

Who goes to MASC?

Judges have the choice of sentencing an offender to prison, to a suspended or deferred sentence (probation), or to the Department of Corrections as "DOC commits," which allows the agency to determine the appropriate placement. Those DOC commits assessed by local probation and parole staff as not immediately appropriate for a community placement also are sent to MASC. Offenders sent to MASC can have a prison sentence or DOC commitment of no more than five years.

How long do offenders stay at MASC?

The average length of stay is 76 days, but an offender can be placed in MASC for up to 120 days for an assessment.

What happens to offenders while at MASC?

Offenders are assessed to determine their need, risks and most appropriate placement in the correctional system. MASC provides short-term treatment, counseling and evaluations for sex offenders and those offenders with chemical dependency, anger management and mental health problems. MASC staff and a representative from the county detention facility meet weekly to assess offenders, review and discuss placement options with offenders, and make referrals to correctional programs. The process begins with an interview and file review when an offender arrives at

MASC. A counselor interviews the offender to acquire more personal information and history which will assist in determining future placement options. The offender is then scheduled to see the screening committee and will be interviewed by the entire committee. The offender will have the opportunity to talk directly to the committee about his placement and future plans.

Where do offenders go when they leave?

If an offender is determined not suitable for a community corrections placement, he is transferred to prison. MASC placements total 3,735 offenders since the program began. Of those, 77 percent were diverted from prison. Almost 33 percent were sent to treatment programs, nearly 22 percent were placed in prerelease centers and 17 percent went to the boot camp.

Has MASC been successful?

Yes, beyond expectations. When MASC was created, correctional officials had hoped it would divert from prison half of the offenders sent there. The rate is 77 percent.

If not for MASC, where would the offenders sent there be supervised?

Most of the offenders would be in prison or would stay in a county jail without services while awaiting screening by a local probation and parole staff.

How is MASC staffed?

MASC works under an agreement between the Department of Corrections and Missoula County. The county provides staff for the security, care and custody of DOC offenders. The state provides for the process of assessment, treatment, placement and sanction of offenders.

Who works at MASC?

The staff includes four state employees: an administrator, correctional unit manager, institutional probation and parole officer and an administrative support employee. The state has contracts for a chemical dependency counselor, mental health counselor and sex offender counselor. Missoula County has three employees assigned to MASC: a unit manager, classification officer and disciplinary officer.

What is MASC's sanction function?

The sanction unit is used by probation and parole hearings

Weeks

FROM Page 16

She beat many of the odds of those with similar injuries, but she is undeniably more fragile than she was before. The neurological injuries diminished her stamina and fine motor skills. She had to relearn how to eat, swallow, dress and walk. Crocheting, manicures, and curling her long brown hair daily – favorite ways to relax before – require improvisation. She misses operating the chainsaw on excursions to the forest for firewood. She had to obtain a new driver's license.

Because she owns a home near Kalispell, Donna stayed in the Flathead Valley when the state moved the boot camp to the Montana State Prison grounds outside Deer Lodge in 1997 and renamed it Treasure State Correctional Training Center.

Her current job is less demanding than her position at the boot camp that had been located near Swan Lake.

'I don't see how you can heal unless you confront what happened.'

-Donna Weeks

"Sattler's actions had a profound impact not only on me, but the entire staff at the camp," Donna said.

At the time of the Swan River attack, Sattler was serving a life sentence for the 1986 murder of Diane Faulkenhagen Stout in Thompson Falls. While awaiting trial for attempted deliberate homicide in the Weeks case, he killed fellow inmate Raymond Carl Martinson in the Lake County Jail in Polson, for which he was sentenced to death. He hung himself in his cell at Montana State Prison on Feb. 2, 2004.

During the interview, Donna volunteered that she does not know if she has forgiven Sattler, but she believes she has let it go.

"There was a lot of hurt there, and I would not be well mentally if I held onto it," she said.

Sattler's death means some of her questions will never be

answered.

"I would have liked to meet with him through the (DOC) victim-offender dialogue program," Donna said. "I would have liked to hear it from the horse's mouth. Why did you do this to me? Why were you so angry?"

"I don't think (a victim) ever gets closure. It's how you deal with what happens that makes the difference," she said.

Q&A

FROM Page 18

officers for offenders who have violated conditions imposed on their community placements. A sanctioned offender can be placed in the unit for up to 30 days in lieu of prison, before being returned to the community supervision.

What role does MASC play for offenders accepted into a community corrections program?

Generally, offenders pre-approved for a community corrections program will

be housed at MASC pending a placement date. If warranted, offenders may be interviewed by a counselor to determine his mental and physical state prior to placement.

Is there a similar program for women offenders?

Yes, it is located in Billings. The Passages Assessment, Sanction and Revocation Center has a capacity of 50. Passages is operated under contract with the department by Alternatives Inc., a private nonprofit corporation.



Missoula Assessment and Sanction Center

Wellness

FROM Page 17

management team are interested in increasing staff awareness of wellness, implementing solutions to assist employees who may be affected by stress in their jobs, and offering healthy lifestyle resources and alternatives.

Steve Barry, Human Resources Division administrator, will lead the effort to launch the initiative. He noted that the project is a process that will unfold, not an event that will occur.

Mees has described the process in terms of a skeleton, on which department staff will build a wellness model specific to the needs of corrections and its employees.

Questions about the initiative and how to participate should be directed to Barry at 444-0406 or sbarry@mt.gov.

CCCS gets PRC contract

The contract to build and operate a 40-bed prerelease center in the Kalispell area was awarded to Community, Counseling and Correctional Services Inc. in December.

The Department of Corrections selected Butte-based CCCS, a nonprofit corporation, from among four proposals submitted by organizations responding to a request for proposals.

CCCS was chosen based on scoring criteria that an evaluation committee used to assess the scope of the project, the qualifications of each offeror and the cost. The contract calls for the state to pay a daily rate of \$84.03 per offender.

Awarding a contract was not the final step in determining whether the prerelease center will open. A public hearing must be held in Kalispell to discuss the possible site and then an independent survey will be conducted to measure local support for the project. After reviewing the survey results, a local committee will determine if the center has public support. Only if that support is found will the project proceed.

The 2007 Legislature authorized creation of a prerelease center in Northwestern Montana, recognizing that region as the only one in the state not yet served by such a facility. Prerelease centers help offenders as they transition from prison to communi-

ties and those who can benefit from a higher level of supervision in order to avoid prison.

Offenders

must have jobs and comply with strict restrictions on their movements each day during an average stay of six months. Prerelease residents receive treatment, counseling, education, job training and placement services. About 800 offenders are in six existing prerelease centers in Billings, Bozeman, Butte, Great Falls, Helena and Missoula.

In developing plans for a Kalispell-area prerelease, the department worked closely with local government officials and community leaders, listening to their concerns and answering questions about the project. As with all prerelease centers, a local screening committee will determine which offenders are accepted at the Kalispell facility.

Historically, Flathead County is the fourth largest contributor to corrections with more than 1,300 offenders in the system. In the past seven years, 899 offenders from Flathead County have spent time in prerelease centers elsewhere in the state. About half of those offenders have moved back to Flathead County after completing their prerelease stays.

"The Department of Corrections' top priority is public safety and we firmly believe that helping offenders succeed in the communities where they eventually will live is the most effective way to reduce the likelihood of them committing new crimes," said Kerry Pribnow, prerelease program contract manager. "We feel creation of a prerelease in northwestern Montana is invaluable addition to our ongoing efforts to provide appropriate supervision of offenders throughout the state."

CCCS operates several correctional facilities in Montana under contract with the department, including prerelease centers in Butte and Bozeman. The company also operates a revocation and sanction center at Warm Springs for offenders who violate conditions of their community placement, a methamphetamine treatment center at Lewistown, treatment programs for felony DUI offenders in Glendive and Warm Springs, and a chemical-dependency program in Butte and Warm Springs.



Crossroads honors Drogitis

Duane Drogitis, safety manager at Crossroads Correctional Center, is employee of the year at the Shelby prison.

The honor was announced during the annual employee Christmas party in December. Drogitis was among employees nominated by their colleagues.

Warden Sam Law described Drogitis as "one of those employees who will help out anywhere he is needed." He noted that the safety department headed by Drogitis was 100 percent compliant in an audit earlier in the year conducted by Corrections Corporation of America, which owns and operates the prison.

Drogitis' name was submitted to CCA for consideration as the company's employee of the year for 2008. Drogitis received \$500 from CCA for his recognition at Crossroads.



Drogitis

Plan

FROM Page 4

3,175 by 2025. That includes 1,394 prison beds, 801 more prerelease center beds, and 980 more beds in alternative and treatment programs.

Even by 2015, the department faces a need for 1,150 more beds in those three categories, the report said.

A proper mixture of all those programs is necessary, the consultants cautioned.

‘Successful re-entry and treatment programs are proven to decrease the incarceration rate and, therefore, reduce secure custody bed space needs.’

-Carter Goble Lee

“Successful re-entry and treatment programs are proven to decrease the incarceration rate and, therefore, reduce secure-custody bed space needs,” they wrote. “A balanced plan to provide the right number of beds at the right custody level is critical to long-term success.”

In addition, the plan projected a need to accommodate about 4,500 more offenders on probation or parole by 2025. Based on the current average caseload, that would require 59 additional probation and parole officers, it said.

The report also warned that the state lacks adequate capacity to handle the medical and mental health needs of incarcerated offenders. The department needs 117 beds for that purpose – 100 more than it has now – by 2015.

Bills

FROM Page 2

federal funding to help the Department of Corrections collect cost-of-care contributions from parents who have a child in an out-of-home placement to cover the cost of the placement. The bill shifts the responsibility for collecting such contributions from the Child Support Enforcement Division in the Department of Public Health and Human Services to the Department of Corrections. The legislation has no effect on the corrections budget.

SB96

Supported by the Department of Corrections and the Department of Public Health and Human Services, this bill ensures that only those people with a legitimate mental illness are admitted to the crowded Montana State Hospital as “guilty but mentally ill” offenders. It requires a mental evaluation, conducted by or approved by the state hospital, for offenders who claim they had a mental disease or defect at the time they committed a criminal offense and that the mental disease, defect or disability rendered them unable to appreciate the criminality of their

A major recommendation in the plan calls for establishment of a correctional complex in eastern Montana that would include separate prisons for men and women, along with a medical/mental health treatment facility for both genders.

The plan suggests phase one would consist of a 256-bed women’s prison to replace the existing facility in Billings,

which the consultants said has a design that does not allow for efficient movement and use of space. Also, a 512-bed men’s prison to meet the state’s need for minimum and medium security housing would be constructed, as well as a 128-bed medical/mental health facility.

This, the consultants said, would meet the state’s needs in 2015. They noted the current women’s prison could be used for another correctional purpose.

Phases two and three would involve adding more capacity at the proposed complex to meet needs in 2020 and 2025. The potential cost of the entire secure-custody project is \$371 million, the plan said.

The increase in prerelease and alternative/treatment program capacity could carry a cost of \$176 million by 2025, while the added capacity in probation and parole could cost \$17.8 million by then, the consultants said.



Consultant Steve Carter

conduct or to conform their conduct to the requirements of the law. The bill requires the evaluation to become part of the presentence investigation. The evaluations would be paid for by DPHHS with money saved by diverting some offenders from the hospital.

SB84

This bill corrects confusing, overlapping, outdated, and contradictory statutes that govern Montana Correctional Enterprises operations. It gives the division flexibility in spending room-and-board payments collected from inmates and adds to the laws a description of MCE’s scope and purpose.

Innovative drug court treatment program changing young lives

By Zachary Franz
Great Falls Tribune
www.greatfallstribune.com

If you're the cynical sort, you could think of Levi Sexe as a sound financial investment. Levi himself is happy to be known by his name, rather than an inmate number. His mother is just thankful to have her son back.

Levi is a story of success – both his own and that of an innovative new approach to crime in Great Falls.

He was one of the first two graduates of Cascade County's Youth Drug Treatment Court, a program that seeks to rehabilitate lawbreakers who have substance-abuse issues.

It offers wayward adolescents a chance to change their course, and gives taxpayers the opportunity to potentially save the hundreds of thousands of dollars it costs to keep a career criminal locked up.

Levi just calls it “drug court,” and he credits the program with changing his life.

When he was 11, Levi had his first shot of liquor. Within a few years he was regularly smoking pot. But it was the fights at school that got him in trouble with the law.

“As soon as I left the house, he was out looking for trouble,” said his mother, Margie Roberts. “Was I at my wit's end? Yes, very much so.”

Now, 17-year-old Levi is polite. He has gone from failing all his classes to a 3.0 grade-point average at CMR High School. When he talks to his mom, he is respectful, even sweet.

It's hard to believe he was once so out of control that staff at his elementary school had to lock him in a basketball equipment cage until police arrived.

Eventually, the fights landed him on probation. After failing his third drug test, Levi, then 14, could have been locked up at Pine Hills Youth Correctional Facility in Miles City.

Instead, a juvenile probation officer recommended Levi for a brand-new program, and on March 30, 2006, Levi's life began to change directions.

Drug court is for nonviolent offenders whose crimes are related to abuse of drugs or alcohol.

Participants have a curfew. They must call in each morning to see if they have to take a drug test that day. If so, they have two hours to take the test. New participants are usually



Margie Roberts gives her son, Levi Sexe, a kiss on the cheek. Levi is one of the first to graduate from Cascade County's Youth Drug Treatment Court. (Tribune Photo by Larry Beckoner)

tested three times each week. All participants must attend counseling sessions and three support groups per week. They also are required to check in with a probation officer and meet with the judge every Thursday.

Sheriff's deputies can and do stop by participants' homes any time of the day or night for random checks to make sure the teens are obeying curfew.

“I never thought I'd be so happy to see the sheriff's department at my door at 2 a.m.,” Margie Roberts said.

Adult drug court members must have a job. If they don't, they are required to spend four hours a day looking for one,

Drug court

FROM Page 22

and another four hours a day doing community service work.

Juveniles must be on track to earn a high school or general educational development diploma to graduate from drug court. They are also held accountable for their behavior at home and in the classroom.

In Levi's case, he was ordered to spend six months in a Great Falls group home, where he could get the structure he needed.

Each participant reports to a probation officer, who is just one part of a 13-member drug court team that includes a prosecutor, a defense attorney, counselors and, at the head of the table, a judge. In Cascade County's youth drug court, it is Judge Kenneth Neill presiding.

Every Wednesday, each member of the team sends a report to a program administrator about every participant's efforts over the past seven days.

On Thursdays, the team meets to discuss each participant. There are currently about 10 participants in Cascade County's youth program, so the meeting typically lasts an hour or two. By the time it's over, drug court participants generally are waiting in Judge Neill's court room.

From his bench, Neill calls them up one at a time. He knows each participant well. Neill always asks one girl about her new baby daughter. He asks others about a recent math test, or an upcoming football game. He is a father figure to the children who appear before him in this setting.

If the team's report is positive, Neill offers praise and asks the other participants to join him in a round of applause.

"You've got to be perfect during the week to get that round of applause," Levi said.

After enough positive reports, the judge might relax the rules, giving the participant a later curfew or requiring fewer drug tests.

But if the report is bad, there are punishments.

When participants sign up for drug court, they agree to abide by its rules. When they don't, the team has broad latitude to impose sanctions.

For a minor infraction, like missing curfew or not calling to check in, the punishment is minor. The participant might

have to write a letter of apology and read it aloud the next week in court.

More serious disobedience calls for a more severe punishment. One participant who recently lied to the team about going on a family vacation, only to be spotted driving around town the weekend he was supposed to be gone, was ordered to spend a week in jail and was demoted on the ladder of progress.

Too many broken rules can get a participant kicked out of drug court, in which case they are prosecuted in the traditional system. Most of the participants are facing a charge significant enough to make that a serious consequence.

"A lot of them are at the point where there would be no alternative except to send them to prison," Neill said.

If participants successfully graduate from the program,

which typically takes about 18 months, the charges are dropped.

The keys to drug court are the long-term effort to change lifestyles and holding participants accountable for their behavior, said Janet Meissner, executive director of Alliance for Youth, the nonprofit

group that administers Cascade County's adult and juvenile drug courts.

In the traditional justice system, offenders are punished for crime with prison time and fines. Montana's Department of Corrections does have rehabilitation programs, but they are far removed from the community. When prisoners are released, they are confronted by the same temptations and pressures that initially led them astray.

Drug court participants stay in their community, where they are forced to confront the demons in their lives while progressing through the program.

"You learn to live in the real world," Levi said.

The frequent drug tests and curfew checks make sure drug court participants stay on track – something Levi's mom couldn't do on her own.

To change his life, Levi had to tell the friends whom he had outgrown that he didn't want to hang out with them anymore.

That wasn't easy for him to do, his mother said.

"They'll tell him, 'You suck – what happened to you?'" she said. "Levi is a loser in their eyes."

However, he was able to tell his friends he had moved on because of the support of the drug court team.

"Research shows treating a kid in the community is more successful than taking them out, treating them, then plugging them back in," Meissner said.

'A lot of them are at the point where there would be no alternative except to send them to prison.'

-District Judge Kenneth Neill

Drug Court

FROM Page 23

Levi wasn't left without friends, though. The drug court team helped him resolve his anger problem, but they also taught him how to have fun without alcohol. His probation officer took him fishing. He also made new friends, and started going to movies or basketball games instead of getting high.

Through a partnership between drug court and Big Brothers Big Sisters of Great Falls, Levi met a mentor who grew to be – and remains – a close friend. Levi said that instead of punishing him, the drug court team

'I've never had anybody show me that much love before.'

-Levi Sexe

found the good in him, and helped him to see it.

"I'm not a bad person inside," he said. "(But) I had my problems."

Looking back, Levi thinks his problems stemmed from anger at his father, who disappeared from his life when Levi was a young child and whose occasional reappearances have not been positive.

"That's probably the root of it for me," Levi said. "I had so much anger and so much aggression toward him."

The team helped Levi learn not only to control his anger, but to let go of it & to deal with the roots of his problem.

"I've never had anybody show me that much love before," Levi said.

He paused for a second, and flashed his mom a sheepish smile.

"Except her," he added.

When Levi started drug court, he didn't think it would change him. He didn't want it to.

"I was like, 'This is bull crap – I shouldn't be here,'" he said.

The alternative was Pine Hills, so Levi figured he'd fake his way through a year or so of once-a-week meetings with a judge, then go back to drinking and smoking pot with his buddies.

"Levi wasn't going to change," his mom said. "He was going to continue to be the tough guy."

Levi agreed with that assessment.

"I pretty much wasn't afraid of anything," he said.

He snuck out after curfew and got caught.

His mother had to give up her job so she could escort Levi to drug court meetings because she couldn't count on him to show up on his own.

"I had no control over him," she said. "I had no control at all."

One day, a guy that had been sentenced to a prison boot camp shared his story with the drug court participants. It resonated with Levi.

"He pretty much had my exact story," Levi said. "That's when my thinking really started to change."

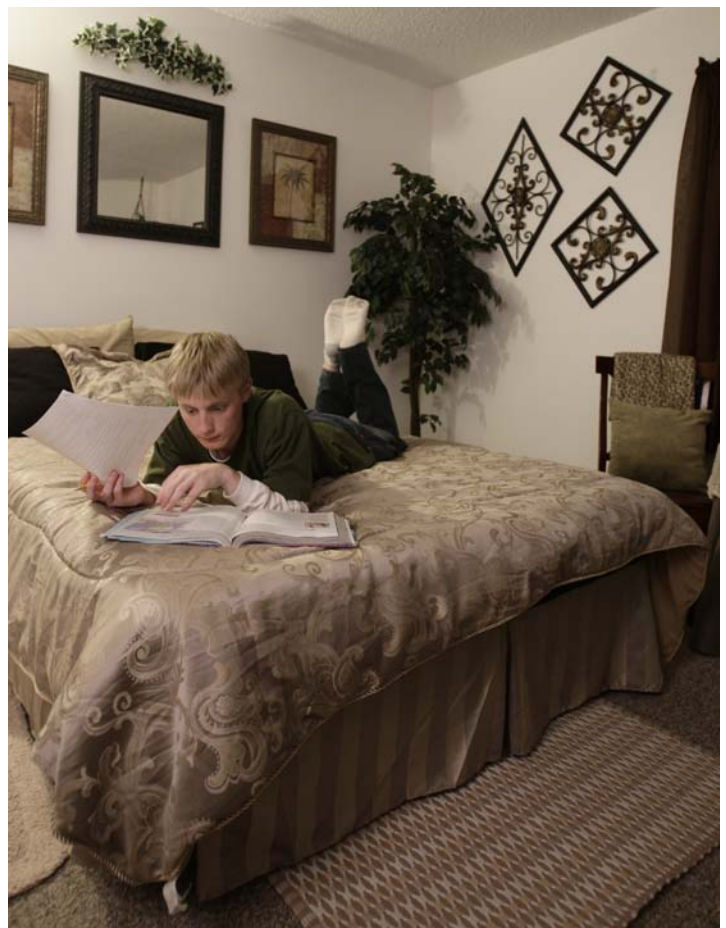
After that, Levi was on board with the program; he wanted to change. Levi graduated from drug court 13 months after he began – faster than any other participant.

Neill sees that pattern repeated in almost every successful participant: first, they break the rules, eventually, they fall into grudging compliance.

"Then, I would say there's a third phase – what I call turning the corner – where they really start to buy into the program," the judge said.

Meissner occasionally has to defend accusations that

DRUG COURT, Page 25



Levi Sex works on a homework assignment in his bedroom. His grades improved after graduating from the Youth Drug Treatment Program in 2006. (Tribune photo by Larry Beckoner)

Drug Court

FROM Page 24

drug court is lenient, and lets criminals off the hook.

"I think the quaint phrase is 'the hug-a-thug program,'" she said.

While there are plenty of hugs on graduation day, there is nothing lenient about drug court, she said.

"It's very, very intense," Meissner added.

By the time participants complete the program, the average drug court graduate will have attended approximately 150 treatment sessions, submitted to about 100 urine tests and been to at least 40 court meetings.

Excluding the participants currently enrolled in the program, only eight of the 26 teens to start drug court have graduated from it. Another was released early to join the military, and by all accounts was successful in drug court.

The remaining 17 failed the program, and faced traditional prosecution.

One of the most challenging things about drug court is that it pushes participants to take responsibility for themselves and their actions, said Cascade County Undersheriff Blue Corneliusen.

"Quite frankly, for some people, it would be easier to go to prison because everything is structured for them – they don't have choices," Corneliusen said.

None of the nine teens who successfully completed drug court has been charged with another criminal offense since their release from the program.

The one that joined the military is now serving



Judge Neill

overseas. Another is in college, and Levi is on his way to becoming an honor student. The most recent graduate pulled her life together in time to remain sober during her

pregnancy, and gave birth to a healthy, beautiful baby girl weeks before her graduation.

Of the thousands of drug tests administered in the first two years of the program, 97 percent came back negative, Meissner said. Every one of the successful participants was drug and alcohol free six months after graduation. In a test of families that have had a child in drug court, 82 percent demonstrated improvement in family management after six months in the program.

Participants and recent graduates of an adult drug court administered by District Judge Thomas McKittrick committed half as many serious offenses as criminals prosecuted in the traditional system.

Each graduate represents huge savings for taxpayers, too.

The juvenile drug court team budgets \$7,500 a year for each participant. That's compared to a cost of about \$125,000 annually to incarcerate a juvenile in Montana.

Additionally, Meissner is confident the program saves hundreds of thousands of dollars more by helping teens become productive members of society rather

They say it takes a village to raise a child. The youth drug treatment court is definitely my village. They gave me my son back.'

-Margie Roberts

than lifelong troublemakers.

When drug court team members talk about the program, they speak in superlatives – none more than Judge Neill.

"It's the best thing I've ever done as a judge," he said.

Matt Robertson, a Cascade County deputy attorney, normally prosecutes juveniles. As a member of the drug court team, he instead joins sides with the defense attorney and other team members in an effort to guide the participants to higher ground.

"It is very, very gratifying," Robertson said. "I enjoy seeing success in treatment court more than I enjoy winning a case in trial."

Robertson still has a graduation announcement on his desk from a teen who graduated from the program more than a year ago – a young man who Robertson once was sure would eventually be sent to prison.

"It's one of those things you want to just hold on to and say, 'This is a success story,'" Robertson said.

But nobody gives the drug court program a more rousing endorsement than Levi's mother.

"They say it takes a village to raise a child. The youth drug treatment court is definitely my village," she said. "They gave me my son back."

EDITOR'S NOTE: This article was printed in the Dec. 21 edition of the Great Falls Tribune. Reprinted with permission.

New P&P regional heads named

Two new regional administrators for probation and parole started their jobs with the new year.

Monty LeTexier, who has worked for the Department of Corrections for nine years, replaces Bernie Driscoll as administrator in Region II, which covers southwest Montana. Dawn Handa, an 11-year veteran of the department, succeeds Mike Gersack in Region III, which includes north-central Montana.

Handa, 41, began her corrections career as a juvenile parole officer in Great Falls in 1997. The following year she became an adult probation and parole officer. She specialized in the supervision of sex offenders for the past 5½ years.

A Minnesota native, she moved to Montana in 1977 and earned bachelor's degrees in criminal justice and paralegal studies in 1991 at the University of Great Falls. She joined the Cascade County public defender's office as a paralegal in 1990 and worked there for seven years before moving to corrections.



Handa

Handa says her time in the public defender's office sparked her decision to enter the corrections field.

"I felt that I would have a better opportunity to serve the public by working with offenders in a different capacity than I had been," she says. "I had interacted with various P&P officers while at the public

defender's office and I respected them and how they were trying to assist offenders in changing their lives.

"I felt that doing community corrections work would be far more rewarding to me than what I was doing at the time," Handa recalls. "I enjoyed working with the offenders on my caseload and seeing firsthand the changes they have been able to make in their lives."

She says applying for the administrator's job was an effort to use her skills and abilities to lead the region in a "positive direction" and to help the department achieve its mission.

LeTexier, who lives in Basin, has worked in the criminal justice system since 1995 when he became a reserve deputy for the Jefferson County sheriff's office, a position he still holds. In 1996, he started working as a juvenile probation officer assistant in Boulder and in 1999 he joined the Department of Corrections as a probation and parole officer in Butte.

After seven years, LeTexier moved on to Warm Springs as an institutional probation and parole officer at the START revocation and sanction center and, two years later,

became a probation and parole officer II in the Helena office.

A North Dakota native, he was a hospital corpsman in the U.S. Navy from 1988 to 1992 and worked as a licensed practical nurse (LPN) at Montana Developmental Center in Boulder for three years. He obtained a bachelor's degree in liberal studies from Montana Tech in 2001 and has received his LPN license in 1993.



LeTexier

"I've always liked making a difference in people's lives and fell into adult probation/parole because I didn't care for 'just' the law enforcement side of the coin," LeTexier, 43, says of his career choice.

"I found corrections to be an organization that has the capacity and programs to help those that want to be helped," he adds. "It also has the ability to keep our communities safe if

the individual chooses not to change or accept help. I stay with the DOC because I see we can and *are* making a difference in people's lives."

LeTexier oversees a 13-county region that includes Beaverhead, Broadwater, Deer Lodge, Gallatin, Granite, Jefferson, Lewis and Clark, Madison, Meagher, Park, Powell, Silver Bow and Sweet Grass counties. Handa's region also covers 13 counties: Blaine, Cascade, Chouteau, Fergus, Glacier, Hill, Judith Basin, Liberty, Petroleum, Pondera, Teton, Toole and Wheatland.

Gersack, 61, says he retired because "it's time to pass the torch" after 37½ years.

He says he leaves corrections feeling very good about what has been accomplished in the nearly four decades he has worked in the field, including the addition of a women's prison, satellite prisons and probation/parole offices, and treatment programs.

"With the change in focus of corrections from just supervising to being more treatment-focused and proactive, rather than reactive, we have gone to more specialized caseloads for offenders with sex crimes, felony drunken driving convictions, gang activity and mental health problems," he says.

Gersack says he plans to spend time golfing and visiting family in Seattle and San Diego.

Driscoll, 58, says his financial situation was right to allow retirement after 34 years in corrections. "Our kids are raised and the house is paid for, so it was a matter of why not," he says.

Driscoll plans to "do nothing" for three or four months and then work part time in chemical dependency counseling in a supervised practice.



A visit to VINE

LEFT: Linda Moodry, Montana State Prison public and victim information officer, listens in on VINE calls at Appriss Inc., in Louisville, Ky., with Mary Beth, one of a team that provides live around-the-clock operator support to crime victims concerned about the whereabouts of offenders. Montana Department of Corrections is one of 24 such agencies that contracts with Appriss to provide automated notification to victims whose offenders are in prison. Calls to and from VINE totaled more than 2 million in 2008. Moodry visited VINE headquarters in October with Sally Hilander, DOC victim information specialist.

RIGHT: Sally Hilander, far right, discusses ways to improve services for Montana crime victims with Appriss representatives, left to right, Jack Henderson, Jeanne Harris and Veronika Shaheenr.



Siegfried-Derrick new MWP operations manager

Annamae Siegfried-Derrick, who has been administrative officer and public and victim information officer at Montana Women's Prison, has become operations manager at the Billings facility.

The promotion, announced in mid-November, is among several administrative changes at the prison during 2008. Mike Aldrich retired as deputy warden; Bob Paul, security chief, was named deputy warden of security; and Sue Orand was appointed deputy warden of programming.

In her new job, Siegfried-Derrick will oversee facility maintenance; offender services such as the legal library,



Siegfried-Derrick

property and mail; food service; and Prison Rape Elimination Act issues. Many of those duties were handled by Aldrich before he left in May.

"To hold all that in place, you need to have an operations manager," Siegfried-Derrick says.

She was chosen from among 11 applicants. Siegfried-Derrick, 47, has worked at the prison about nine years. She holds a bachelor's degree in business management. While serving in the U.S. Army, she worked in communications repair and satellite communications.

The promotion took effect Nov. 10.

The prison has about 70 staff and an average daily inmate population of 187. Its annual expenditures are about \$6.3 million.

A new public and victim information specialist is expected to be hired by February.

DOC Work and Re-entry Center expansion opens



LEFT: The expanded work dorm at Montana State Prison, renamed the DOC Work and Re-entry Center, opened Jan. 12. The expansion increases capacity of the original building from 85 to 193. The center houses inmates who work daily outside the prison compound at Montana Correctional Enterprises operations. The project, authorized by the 2007 Legislature and started in April, 2008, had a \$2.5 million appropriation.



LEFT: A wide, well-lit hallway enhances security in the building.

BELOW LEFT: One of rooms capable of housing three offenders

BELOW RIGHT: An enclosed officer station capable of being secured allows direct supervision of the unit population by staff.



Photos by Lt. Dan Hess



'Shop With A Cop'**MSP staff helps make Christmas brighter**

**By Shelley Steyh
Unit Manager, MSP**

Christmas was a lot brighter for 14 children who participated in the annual "Shop with a Cop" program this year, thanks to the work of Montana State Prison employees and Deer Lodge-area law enforcement and correctional officers.

"Shop With A Cop" is an event that benefits under-privileged children in the Deer Lodge area. Local businesses and individuals made cash donations for this year's program and the response was overwhelming.

The children are nominated by the local school district and family services officials. Each nomination was reviewed by the program's board of directors that includes law enforcement and corrections officers from the surrounding area.

Officers and other MSP staff take the children shopping, using the donations. The amount of money donated dictates the number of children able to participate, at the rate of \$100 per child. In past years, the event was lucky to be able to take two children from Deer Lodge. But enough money was raised in 2008 to take 14. The goal for next year is to raise enough for 100 children from a wider area.



Children enjoy a moment during their "Shop With A Cop" adventure. (Photo by Shelley Steyh)

It was snowing and blowing Dec. 13. The day began with a huge breakfast of French toast, bacon, eggs and milk; donated by Joe's Pasties in uptown Butte. After breakfast, they were paired with officers from Powell County, Butte-Silver Bow, the Department of Transportation and the prison for the shopping adventure.

The children were escorted to K-mart by Montana State Prison staff and Powell County reserve sheriff's deputies.

Each child was given a \$100 gift card to shop for themselves and then for their family. Every gift a child bought was wrapped by local volunteer groups. Each child was required to buy themselves an outfit before they could shop for others or buy themselves a toy.

When the shopping was done, each child received a snack and was treated to a puppet show by the local fire department. Santa was on hand and pictures were taken with each child.

The following officers battled the frigid weather to make Christmas a little brighter: Mark Lochrie, Misty Rutenbur, Keith Miller, Carrie McCarthy, Erik Miller, Dotsie Lucier, Joe Shafer, Ron Steyh, Crystal Foster, Paul Thompson, Eric LaPier, Carl Beckwith, Paul Harris, Shannon Ray, Shelley Steyh. Thanks go out to them.

For more information on "Shop With A Cop" and how to make a child's Christmas better, please contact Shelley Steyh or Carrie McCarthy. The more people involved, the more children have this wonderful opportunity. Planning starts now for next year.

MCE produces 350 cords of firewood

Montana Correctional Enterprises, in partnership with the Department of Public Health and Human Services, expects to provide about 350 cords of free firewood to needy Montana families this winter.

The first of dozens of semi-trailer loads of the wood was trucked from Montana State Prison land near Deer Lodge on Jan. 7, as part of Gov. Brian Schweitzer's initiative to provide firewood to low-income Montanans.

Montana Correctional Enterprises ranch and fire crews have felled, cut, split and palletized dead timber from forested land managed by MCE around the state prison. They expect to fill about 700 pallets, each containing a half-cord of firewood sealed in shrink wrap, this winter. So far, 58 pallets have been shipped.

A semi-trailer operated by the state human services agency carted off the first loads to the Human Resources Development Council in Butte, said Jim Nolan, chief of the Intergovernmental Human Services Bureau at DPHHS. Other trucks will be carrying loads of wood to other HRDC offices and to Montana's American Indian reservations.

MCE crews, composed of about 10 inmates, worked daily on the project, sometimes in subzero temperatures. The project offered them an opportunity to give back to the community and help others in need.

The timber being used came from trees killed by pine beetle infestation. Using the beetle-killed trees not only provides a heat source for those in need, but is also good forest management for the prison ranch.

A Department of Natural Resources and Conservation forester inspected the wood and assured MCE officials that the trees had been dead for so long that they contained no beetles.

"People who heat with wood are usually at the bottom of the economic ladder and providing them with free firewood in the middle of winter is an extraordinary effort," Nolan said. "Thanks to all the staff at MCE, especially Gayle Lambert (administrator), Clara Morrison (lumber processing supervisor) and Bill Dabney (agriculture director)."

This is the third year the MCE firewood program has operated.



ABOVE: An inmate's coat sits on a pile of firewood.



LEFT: Inmates split cut logs into firewood.

RIGHT: An inmate uses a chainsaw to carve logs into blocks for splitting.



BELOW: Firewood stacked on pallets and shrink-wrapped awaits pick up.



*Photos
by
Gail
Boese*

Legal Brief

By Diana Koch
Chief Legal Counsel

Since the 2009 Legislature has several proposals to amend the felony DUI statute (61-8-731), it seems appropriate to address the existing statute and some variations of past statutes that are still causing problems.

We all know the current sentencing scheme, don't we? Thirteen months incarceration, followed by up to five years suspended and, if the offender completes a program operated or approved by the Department of Corrections, the rest of the 13 months is suspended.

This sentence, however, is not the only sentence for felony DUI. § 61-8-731 (3), MCA allows the court to sentence an offender to a sentence of 13 months to five years if the offender was "placed" in WATCH, the treatment program for felony drunken-driving offenders. To be eligible for this sentence, the offender did not have to finish WATCH. Unlike subsection (1), subsection (3) contains no requirement that the offender serve any of the sentence incarcerated.

There is also no prohibition on parole. Conceivably, the whole sentence can be suspended, and if the department places the offender in prison, he or she is eligible for parole on the sentence. Most importantly, if the department allows the offender to participate in WATCH again, none of the sentence is automatically suspended upon completion of WATCH. A sentence of five years with none suspended is thus a valid legal sentence under subsection (3) for an offender.

There was a quirk in the law from May 2, 1997, until July 1, 2001, that affects revocations of the suspended portions of the DUI sentence. During that time, the law in effect declared that if the court revoked the suspended sentence, all the court could impose was the "remainder" of the suspended time. That is different than the revocation of every other suspended sentence where the court can impose the whole sentence on a revocation. See 46-18-203, MCA.

The court is able to impose a life sentence, a few years at a time with serial revocations. But the Montana Supreme Court held in *State v. Oie*, 2007 MT 328, ¶ 17, that when the statute said "remainder" a judge cannot use a never-ending sentence; all it could impose was the amount of time the offender had left to serve at the time of the revocation.

This is pertinent now because there are still offenders in the system who may be serving sentences that were revoked perhaps erroneously. The department dealt with one a few weeks ago. When dealing with a felony DUI offender, it is important to note the offense date and, if it was within the time period mentioned above, make sure there was not an incorrect revocation.

In summary, there are two sentencing schemes for felony DUI; one for the offender who has never been placed in WATCH, and another for offenders who have been to WATCH, whether or not they have completed WATCH. Also, offenders who committed a felony DUI between May 2, 1997 and July 1, 2001, are not eligible for serial revocations. Here is an easy chart:

Never Been to WATCH	Been Placed in WATCH Previously
13 months incarcerated	No mandatory length of incarceration; 13 mos to 5 yrs all of which can be incarceration
13 months cannot be suspended	It can all be suspended
No parole on the initial 13 months	If imprisoned, eligible for parole on the whole sentence
Whole sentence cannot exceed 6 years & 1 month (13 mos + 5 yrs)	Whole sentence cannot exceed 5 years (13 months to 5 years)
If offense committed between 5/2/97 and 7/1/01, court could revoke only the remainder of the suspended sentence.	If offense committed between 5/2/97 and 7/1/01, court could revoke only the remainder of the suspended sentence.

Geary joins HR

Charles Geary joined the Department of Corrections in November as recruiter. He replaced Tom Antonick, who moved to the Office of Public Instruction.

His department-wide duties include developing strategies for recruitment and retention of department personnel, carrying out performance management responsibilities and maintaining the DOC equal employment opportunity plan. He also provides general human resource services to the Health, Planning and Information Services Division and the state Board of Pardons and Parole.



Geary

Geary had worked in human resources at Holiday Village Mall in Great Falls for more than six years before coming to the department. As marketing manager and security and guest services manager, he was responsible for customer service personnel recruitment and training. He developed a marketing plan, analyzed employee benefits, reviewed disciplinary grievances and developed policies for employee retention.

He obtained an associate degree in law enforcement science and technology from Western Dakota Technical Institute in 1993 and a bachelor's degree in applied management from National American University in 2007. He is working on a master's degree in business administration.

He served in the U.S. navy from 1987 to 1989.

Health and Wellness

by April Grady

Healthy New Year!

Quarterly Quote: To keep the body in good health is a duty... otherwise we shall not be able to keep our mind strong and clear. ~Buddha

Eco Tip: Salt can be used in the following ways as a more environmentally friendly alternative to harsher synthetic chemicals:

- Sprinkle salt onto a sponge and rub to remove tea and coffee stains from cups, pots and decanters.
- Soak sponges in a heavy saline solution to kill bacteria.
- Dissolve a quarter teaspoon of salt into a half a mouthful of warm water for an economical mouthwash and toothache cure.
- Mix 1 part salt to 3 parts boiling water and pour on weeds to kill them.
- Pour rock salt onto greasy pots and pans before scouring to cut through grease.
- Occasionally throwing a handful of salt on wood stove flames will help prevent soot and creosote build up.

From Greenlivingtips.com

ON THE JOB EXERCISE TIPS-Change your habits!

- Take mini-walks - Walk during coffee breaks. Arrange a walk-and-talk instead of a sit-and-talk meeting. Walk or bike to and from work.



- Climb stairs instead of taking the elevator.
- Park and walk - Park farther away from the office (or the store when shopping), instead of trying to get as close as possible.
- Walk on your lunch break - You'll return refreshed. Wear comfortable shoes.
- Move while on the phone - Stand and move around while talking on the phone. Do some stretches.

• Swing your arms, turn your neck, or wiggle your toes — any kind of movement helps.

For additional ways to change habits:

aom.americaonthemove.org challenges you, your family and your community to take small steps and make small changes to a healthier way of life.

Celebration Recipes:

Spinach-Artichoke Dip with Bacon

Yield

16 servings (serving size: about 1/4 cup dip and 4 baguette slices)

Ingredients

2 (8-ounce) French bread baguettes, each cut into 32 (1/4-inch) slices
 Olive oil-flavored cooking spray
 1/3 cup fat-free mayonnaise
 2 garlic cloves, minced
 1 (8-ounce) package 1/3-less-fat cream cheese, softened
 1 (8-ounce) package fat-free cream cheese, softened
 2/3 cup (about 2 1/2 ounces) grated fresh Parmesan cheese, divided
 5 center-cut bacon slices, cooked and crumbled
 1 (14-ounce) can quartered artichoke hearts, drained and chopped
 1 (10-ounce) package frozen chopped spinach, thawed, drained, and squeezed dry

Preparation

Preheat oven to 350°.

Arrange baguette slices in a single layer on 2 large baking sheets, and coat bread with cooking spray. Bake at 350° for 10 minutes or until crisp and lightly browned.

Place mayonnaise, garlic, 1/3-less-fat cream cheese, and fat-free cream cheese in a large bowl; beat with a mixer at medium speed until well blended and creamy. Stir in 1/2 cup Parmesan cheese, bacon, artichoke hearts, and spinach. Spread mixture into an 11 x 7-inch baking dish coated with cooking spray. Sprinkle with remaining Parmesan cheese. Bake at 350° for 25 minutes or until thoroughly heated. Serve with toasted baguette slices.

Nutritional Information

Calories: 167 (30% from fat), Fat: 5.6g (sat 3.3g, mono 1.7g, poly 0.2g), Protein: 9.3g, Carbohydrate: 20.9g,

Wellness

FROM Page 32

Fiber: 1.2g, Cholesterol: 17mg, Iron: 1.6mg, Sodium: 522mg, Calcium: 118mg, Ann Taylor Pittman, *Cooking Light*, NOVEMBER 2007

Spicy Herb Roasted Nuts

Yield

Makes 5 cups

Ingredients

- 1 1/2 cups almonds
- 1 1/2 cups walnut halves
- 1 cup hazelnuts
- 1 cup pecan halves
- 1/2 cup maple syrup
- 1/4 teaspoon cayenne
- 1 1/2 teaspoons chopped fresh oregano leaves
- 1 1/2 teaspoons chopped fresh sage leaves
- 1 1/2 teaspoons chopped fresh thyme leaves
- 1 1/2 teaspoons chopped fresh rosemary leaves
- 1 1/2 teaspoons chopped fresh savory leaves
- 1 1/2 teaspoons chopped fresh marjoram leaves
- 3 tablespoons olive oil
- About 1 teaspoon kosher salt

Preparation

1. Mix almonds, walnuts, hazelnuts, pecans, maple syrup, cayenne, oregano, sage, thyme, rosemary, savory, marjoram, and oil in a 10- by 15-inch rimmed pan. Sprinkle nuts with 1 teaspoon salt.
2. Bake in a 300° oven, stirring occasionally, until all liquid evaporates and nuts are golden under the skin (break open to test), about 45 minutes.
3. Let cool. Taste and add more salt if desired.

Nutritional analysis per 1/4 cup.

Nutritional Information

Calories: 217 (79% from fat), Protein: 4.2g, Fat: 19g (sat 1.7), Carbohydrate: 11g, Fiber: 2.3g, Sodium: 77mg, Cholesterol: 0.0mg Sunset magazine, NOVEMBER 1997

Three-Cheese Veggie Pizza

Yield

6 servings (serving size: 1 slice)

Ingredients

- 2 teaspoons olive oil
- 1/4 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
- 2 garlic cloves, minced
- 1 (8-ounce) package presliced mushrooms
- 1 cup marinara sauce
- 1 (1-pound) Italian cheese-flavored pizza crust (such as Boboli)
- 1/2 cup (2 ounces) shredded part-skim mozzarella cheese
- 1/2 cup (2 ounces) shredded fontina cheese
- 1/4 cup (1 ounce) grated fresh Parmesan cheese
- 3/4 cup sliced bottled roasted red bell peppers
- 1 tablespoon capers, rinsed and drained
- 4 drained canned artichoke hearts, thinly sliced

Preparation

Preheat oven to 500°.

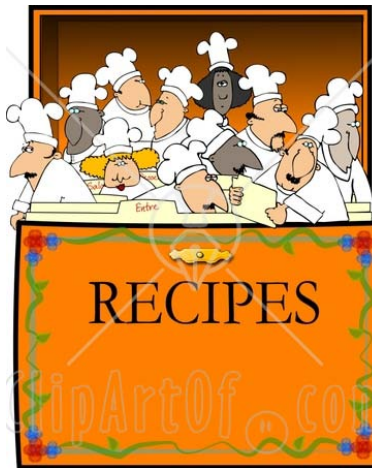
Heat 2 teaspoons olive oil in a large nonstick skillet over medium-high heat. Add black pepper, minced garlic, and mushrooms; sauté for 5 minutes or until mushrooms are tender and most of liquid evaporates.

Spread sauce over the pizza crust, leaving a 1/2-inch border, and top with mushroom mixture. Sprinkle evenly with mozzarella, fontina, and Parmesan cheeses. Top with roasted red bell peppers, 1 tablespoon capers, and artichokes. Bake at 500° for 10 minutes or until cheese melts and begins to brown. Let pizza stand for 5 minutes before serving.

Nutritional Information

Calories: 345 (30% from fat), Fat: 11.5g (sat 5.4g, mono 4.1g, poly 1.1g), Protein: 17g, Carbohydrate: 42.2g, Fiber: 1.6g, Cholesterol: 19mg, Iron: 3.2mg, Sodium: 860mg, Calcium: 393mg Martha Rose Shulman, *Cooking Light*, JANUARY 2005

Mypyramid.gov provides a food worksheet and specialized eating plans to ensure the recommended servings of fruits, vegetables, proteins, dairy, and grains are consumed each day.



The Training Times



MSP, MCE staff complete training

By Steve Barry
HR Administrator

Department of Corrections management team members and supervisory staff from Montana State Prison and Montana Correctional Enterprises completed the first session of The Pacific Institute (TPI) "Investment in Excellence" training course at the DOC Training Center in late October.

This initial manager training course is the first step in a department pilot initiative to bring to the department TPI's offender programs "New Directions" and "PX2," which will be implemented initially at the expanded Department of Corrections Work and Reentry Center (formerly work dorm) at MSP.

The TPI curriculum, "Investments in Excellence," previously was known in the department as "Imagine 21." It is used by private businesses, public agencies and individuals throughout the world.



TPI clients include over 60 percent of the Fortune 500 companies and TPI has developed specific curriculum for educators, children and young adults, as well as recently offered curriculum for the offender population. Early results from delivery of the initial offender curriculum demonstrated a 28 percent reduction in recidivism rates. TPI expects more dramatic results from the revised "New Directions" curriculum.

The curriculum offers training in effective thinking and provides offenders with the knowledge and understanding to establish a new direction in their lives. They are taught that the past affects their future, but that the future doesn't have to repeat the past. Rather, the message is, one's beliefs today will dictate the future.

MSP and MCE staff will reinforce and support offenders after they have completed the training as they work to apply their new knowledge and view of the future in their daily work and programming activities.

TRAINING, Page 36

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Training identifies personalities by colors

"Thinking is the hardest work there is, which is the probable reason why so few engage in it." – Henry Ford

Many of us have taken a personality test to see ourselves in a new light, learn more about why we do what we do and how to make ourselves better.

Can you recall your personality profile? Are you an extrovert or introvert? Do you sense things or do you use your intuition more? And how is this all relevant to the job we do?

The Myers Briggs Type Indicator provides wonderful information and if you have the opportunity to take that assessment, do so. It is a valuable tool that can help you identify your personality and how you operate. It will let you know how you focus your attention, the way you take in information, how you make decisions as well as how you deal with the world. Powerful stuff.

Well, get ready for an easier way. Lisa Hunter and Rae Forseth recently attended training for a similar process called "True Colors." This course simplifies the Meyers Briggs Type Indicator by assigning a color to that profile. So instead of remembering if you are an ESFP (Extrovert, Sensing, Feeling and Perception) or a INTJ, (Introvert, Intuition, Thinking, Judging), you can now say you are a "Gold" a "Green" or whatever color you may be.

The True Colors method uses four colors to identify four distinct perspectives and personalities. Most people have a dominant color and are influenced by the other three colors.

Once you identify your color spectrum, you are able to see other people's colors and this helps you respond more appropriately and consciously in your communication, relations and day-to-day interactions.

This new and informative training will be available in January.

Are you ready to know your "True Colors?"

Training Schedule

For more information, call Geri Miller at 846-1320 ext 2307

JANUARY

12	Mental Health & Suicide Intervention	DOCTC
13-15	CP&R Facilitator Course	DOCTC
26-30	Investment in Excellence-I&II for facilitators	DOCTC

FEBRUARY

4-6	Investments in Excellence – I	DOCTC
5	Career Survival (8am-12pm)	Helena
5	Multi-Generational Work Force	TBA
6	Non-Violent Crisis Intervention	MSP
11	Interpersonal Communication	DOCTC
9-11	TPI Facilitator Training for Offender Program	DOCTC
12-13	SKD Instructor Re-Certification Course	DOCTC
12	CP&R Facilitator Refresher Course	TBA
17	Mental Health & Suicide Intervention	DOCTC
18	Avoiding Offender Manipulation	TBA
18	True Colors	TBA
23-27	Basic Instructor Development	DOCTC
26	Mental Health & Suicide Intervention	DOCTC
27	Stress Management	DOCTC

MARCH

3-5	CP&R Facilitator Course	Billings
4-5	Investments in Excellence – II	DOCTC
9	Defensive Tactics	DOCTC
9	Report Writing	MSP
11	Career Survival	DOCTC
12	Interpersonal Communication	MSP
14	Women In Corrections	MSP
16-19	Effective Communication	MWP
18	Spontaneous Knife Defense	DOCTC
23	Stress Management	Helena

TBA	Stress Management	Billings
23-25	Investments in Excellence – I	DOCTC
31	True Colors	Helena

APRIL

2	True Colors	Helena
6-9	Basic Instructor Development (NIC)	TBA
15-17	Investments in Excellence – I	Helena
15	Avoiding Offender Manipulation	TBA
16	Defensive Tactics	DOCTC
20-23	Effective Communication	Missoula
28-29	Investments in Excellence – II	DOCTC
23	Multi-generational Workforce	DOCTC

MAY

1	Career Survival Tactics	DOCTC
12-14	CP&R Facilitator Falls Prerelease	Great
14	Report Writing	DOCTC
18-19	Investments in Excellence – II	Helena
23	Defensive Tactics	DOCTC

JUNE

3	Ground avoidance, ground escape	DOCTC
8-11	Effective Communication	DOCTC
9-10	Multi-generational Workforce	MWP
9-10	Interpersonal Communication	MWP
15	True Colors	DOCTC
16	Spontaneous Knife Defense	DOCTC
18	Stress Management	MSP
24	Defensive Tactics	DOCTC
29	Mechanics of CP&R	MSP
30	Mechanics of CP&R	MSP

STRESS: Learn how to deal with it

By Rae Forseth
Professional Programs Manager

Stress: "A CONDITION OR FEELING EXPERIENCED WHEN A PERSON PERCEIVES THAT DEMANDS EXCEED THE PERSONAL AND SOCIAL RESOURCES THE INDIVIDUAL IS ABLE TO MOBILIZE."

Job stressors can be major or minor and at low levels may not be noticeable. Slightly higher levels can be positive and challenge a person to be creative and resourceful, but high levels of stress can be harmful.

Some symptoms of stress include:

- No time or energy
- Social withdrawal
- Feelings of despair or hopelessness
- Difficulty sleeping.

BALANCE YOUR SENSES

Environment and work experience may negatively impact a person's senses. It is through the senses that people take in the things that cause stress. So what can be done?

SOUND – FOOD FOR THE SOUL

Bodies are made up of water and feel vibrations of the sounds around them. Sounds can heal, relax and energize.

Training

FROM Page 34

Greg Turk, facilitator from TPI, led the group of 23 staff members through the curriculum, while at the same time integrating it to the MSP/MCE environment and culture. Staff participated in the training session by developing and agreeing upon a joint vision from which to proceed. The vision includes a "melding" of facility security and programming needs, which is necessary to ensure successful offender integration back into communities, a primary element of the department mission.

TPI returned to the training center in December for the second part of the series. In the interim, an MSP and MCE cultural survey was conducted using a questionnaire completed by line and supervisory staff. The results of that survey guided TPI facilitators in presenting the second session, tailoring it to the results of the survey.

The second phase of this initiative will include facilitator training for staff members who will be involved in presenting the offender curriculum. This training is scheduled for late January 2009 with implementation of the offender curriculum to begin in February 2009.

Use music, wind chimes or fountains to help focus surroundings and ensure that what is heard does not cause us more stress.

SIGHT – EYES ARE THE WINDOWS

People have a subconscious reaction to color so look at your home, office or even what you wear. It can be an impact on your mood and stress levels.

TASTE AND SMELL

What a person eats has a strong impact on how he or she feels. People need fuel to run and if they don't fill the tank, they won't make it far. Also, if a person puts "junk in the trunk" he or she will be dragging it around all day. Watching what one eats can avoid that. Throughout the day, a person can improve mood or stress levels with:

- Aromatherapy
- Flowers
- Soap
- Candles

Just make sure that the method isn't offensive to others. A person may think a new cologne or perfume is wonderful, but someone else may be allergic. So moderation and consideration is key.

TOUCH

Exercise improves blood flow to the brain, releases endorphins and helps with sleep. Doing simple things at one's desk like neck rolls, deep breathing, or just get up and walk. More important – people should be aware of what their bodies are telling them. When stressed, people may feel more back pains, headaches, insomnia, upset stomach or just general aches and pains.

A few other tips to help reduce stress:

- Meditation – facilitates physical relaxation and mental tranquility
- Journaling – improves physical and emotional health, powerful tool for processing
- Mantras – mumble to yourself, the brain associates phrases with calmness
- Know your limitations – say no, delegate
- Balance your life – have a personal life; not all work
- Nurture yourself – splurge now and then. Take time for you
- LAUGH – laughing 100 times is equal to 10 minutes rowing for 15 minutes on a bike
- Make someone's day – build others up, talk less and listen more, FORGIVE!

Ultimately it is up to each person to manage stress and take care of themselves.

Comings

EDITOR'S NOTE: These lists of new and departing employees are for the period from Sept. 27, 2008, through Jan. 2, 2009. If you notice errors or omissions, please call the *Signpost* editor at (406) 444-0409, or e-mail him at banez@mt.gov.

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Robert Hislop

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Brandon Allen
Philip Bills
Wiley Black
Lila Boyanich
Patrick Boyle

Jody Brown
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Kenneth Castleton
Tiffany Cerise
Kathleen Czech
Vikki Dahlen
Melvin D'Arcy
Tannia Dickinson
Donald Fjermestad
Candice Gonder
Mark Henderson
Debra Hoscheid
Leonard Hoscheid
David Jones
Matthew King
David Lewis
Tina Lonnon
Peggy Manley
Ron McDonald
Ricky McKinnon
Jeffrey McNabb
Henry O'Donnell

Andrea Perkins
Ashley Peterson
Sandra Seveyka
Douglas Smith
Richard Stafford
Douglas Statton
Sharon Tuggle
Adam Underwood
Kristie Weiss
Melissa Williams
Janel Wrobel
Frank Zigmund III

MCE

Kevin Mickelson

Pine Hills

Carla Andreeff
Laney Gregory
Chantelle Henneberry
Jacob Sparks
Patricia Ward

Riverside

Jonathan Hardison
Angela Maurer

Probation and Parole

Karri Elk, Billings
Christy Erickson, Kalispell
Janice Flint, Polson
Josh Green, Great Falls
Janet Haas, Havre
Lee Olsen, Kalispell
Daniel Taylor, Billings

Treasure State

Jeffrey Hiltz

Youth Transition Centers

Heather Harpring
Michael Jarrett
Jason Riphenburg

Goings

Nicole Anderson
Jacob Baker
David Ball
David Beatty
Christopher Bjorgum
Linda Bofto
Tracy Boucher
William Brandcamp
Julie Buchman
Melisa Carroll
Shannon Davies

Jeanette Diaz
Bernie Driscoll
Michael Gersack
Trevor Glennon
Michael Gotcher
Ken Grady
Chayne Harding
Zane Harmon
Coryn Henderson
Lori Jurenec
Tristan Kale

Neil Knox
Blaine Kurtz
Spring Lindeman
Kenneth Mahns
Lisa Mantz
Paula Meyer
Jason Miller
Robert Morani
Laura Nilson
Kivin Olson
James Oly

Ray Pellant
Jim Powell
Frank Raffaell
Alex Sexton
Phillip Shelton
Glen Simpson
Killian Thomas
Al Venturelli

2009 legislative information available

The 2009 Legislature is under way and tracking what's going on is easy, thanks to the Internet.

The easiest way is to go the session home page at the following site:
<http://leg.mt.gov/css/sessions/61st/default.asp>.

That will lead you to sites where you can look up bills either by specific numbers or by subject, and check the latest schedule of hearings to determine what legislation is before committees on a particular date.

Audio and video of committee meetings and House and Senate floor sessions also are available, although video is not offered for all committees.

If you missed a hearing and want to listen to it, you can tap into the legislative archives.

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